

Hafa Adai!

Atalig intends to call DFEMS chief to testify at trial. **PAGE 3**
Over 2,000 fire calls so far this year—DFEMS chief. **PAGE 5**

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Man arrested for allegedly refusing to be quarantined

Police arrested Saturday a man who refused to undergo the mandatory COVID-19 quarantine upon arriving on the island.

The man, who had just arrived at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport with his wife, a U.S. Homeland Security agent, was arrested for obstruction of

justice and brought to the Department of Corrections where his temperature reading was recorded above 100° F. He was then brought to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., where he undertook the COVID-19 test. Results returned negative and he was brought

back to DOC.

According to a CNMI Department of Public Safety statement of the incident, DPS received a call from the COVID-19 Task Force last July 11, 2020, at about 9:24am, requesting for assistance at

See MAN on Page 4

Contact tracing continues for new cases

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

The two individuals found positive for COVID-19, now both in isolation at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe, were initially released for self-quarantine after landing on Saipan, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña.

"They were released for See CONTACT on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, July 13, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	310	2	312
Recovered	202	0	202
Active	103	2	105
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	17,476		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	33	0	33
Active	3	0	3
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	10,697**		

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

**Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

New DHS rule will affect 50 NMC students

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

With the news that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/Immigration and Customs Enforcement

File photo shows the Northern Marianas College logo on display at the college's As Terlaje campus.

KRIZEL TUAZON

will implement a new rule that could force foreign college students to leave or be deported if they are not enrolled in any face-to-face class, the Northern Marianas College is looking at its options to help affected students continue their education.

"The new rule, just last week, See DHS on Page 4



House review of executive expenditures starts

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

The House Special Committee on Fiscal Review of Executive Expenditures went over the ground rules on how it will go about its review of the Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' expenditures at its first organizational meeting in the House of Representatives chamber yesterday.

Special committee chair Rep. Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan)

See HOUSE on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Diehard fans of Shirley's Coffee Shop can now relax as the restaurant is back.

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NATION

Florida sets the national record for a state's largest single-day increase in positive cases.

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ASIA

An online broadcast of the funeral of Seoul's mayor drew a mix of condolence and insults.

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Minority to soon submit report on Torres' OGA docs

By IVA MAURIN

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REPORTER

The House of Representatives' minority bloc is looking to finalize as soon as possible its report on Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' executive expenditures based on their Open Govern-

» Sablan: It's more political to ignore issues

ment Act request in December, especially with a new special bipartisan committee appointed to also do an oversight.

In an interview, Rep. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan) said that, while they want to get the report done before the end of the month, legal reviews still have to be done before the minority can submit the report to the entire House.

"We expect that it will be

helpful for the special committee going forward. It will include a list of witnesses that we'd like to summon to the Legislature to offer further clarity as to what these expenditures are all about and how or whether they're justified for public purposes," she said.

Last year, the House minority bloc asked Finance Secretary David Atalig for access to its records on Torres' travels, allowances, executive security, and requests for reimbursement from October 2014, among others.

Citing a newly created special committee, Sablan said that there might be an overlap or intersection of their investigation with the other committee.

"We are looking at executive expenditures, and a big problem has been this issue of overtime for Cabinet members that the governor has authorized again in this COVID-19 disaster. That may be a factor in this new investigation," she said. "Concerns with the community benefit fund that may be an issue that comes up as well. I'm not sure how broad the committee will want the scope of the investigation to be, but the governor did play a huge role in enforcing the terms of the casino license agreement."

According to the legislator, it is "pretty clear" from the re-

cords that they have seen that the governor has done "very little enforcement at all" over the last couple of years on the community benefit fund.

As for criticisms about the oversight being about politics, Sablan said this "to be expected."

"But I would also say that the criticism that this is about politics tends to come from people who are also in positions of politics," she added.

She pointed out that the minority has been calling for an oversight since last year, and have called for a fair, impartial, and bipartisan investigation. COVID-19 have had a lot to do with the delays, she added, but now that the Legislature is meeting again, they are ready to be as fair and impartial and professional as they can.

"I think it would be even more political to ignore these issues, to not do our jobs. Legislative oversight is an essential function of this Legislature, and checks and balances are an important part of our legal system. That's really what this is about," she added.

CONGRATULATION!



Congratulations to Isamu Kean Abraham Santos on your promotion to K-5. Love, Mommy, Daddy, Nana Tee, Grandma and Grandpa Santos.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Atalig intends to call DFEMS chief to testify at trial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig intends to call Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Dennis James C. Mendiola to testify at trial in the case against him (Atalig) and his girlfriend in federal court.

Atalig, through counsel David G. Banes, requested the U.S. District Court for the NMI to determine prior to the trial whether Mendiola has a valid basis for asserting the Fifth Amendment privilege if he is called to testify at trial.

Fifth Amendment protects individuals from being forced to incriminate themselves.

Mendiola used to serve as Rota DFEMS deputy commissioner. He was among the eight Rota officials, including Mayor Atalig, that the Office of the Attorney General charged with misconduct in public office before the Superior Court.

The OAG, however, dropped the case against Mendiola. The Superior Court granted the motion and the OAG can no longer re-file the charge against him.

The Superior Court case was filed over an alleged Re-



File photo shows the Rota Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

publican rally in Guam in June 2018 that Atalig and others allegedly attended in the guise of a legitimate government trip.

In Atalig's motion for pre-trial determination filed yesterday, Banes said Mendiola was one of the participants in the trip taken by the mayor and Rota resident directors to Guam in June 2018 (DRMO trip), which is one of the trips charged in this federal court case.

DRMO refers to a U.S. Department of Defense Office formerly known as the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office, but is

now called DLA Disposition Services.

Banes said Mendiola has "extremely relevant" information regarding efforts made to obtain access to the DRMO for the whole group while they were in Guam.

Banes said that if subpoenaed to testify in Atalig's case in federal court, Mendiola may assert his Fifth Amendment privilege, although he may not have a valid basis for doing so.

Mendiola is not charged in Atalig's case in federal court.

The trial will be on Aug. 4, 2020.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BRIGIDA NAKATSUKASA MARATITA, Deceased
PROBATE CASE NO. 20-0152-CV
NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION TO PROBATE and NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Date: August 6, 2020
Time: 10:00 am
Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE JACOB T. SEMAN OR OF HER ESTATE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Eldin J. Maratita, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Brigida Nakatsukasa Maratita, "Decedent". The attorney for Petitioner is Vincent J. Seman, Esq., whose address is JET Building, Suite 204, Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, PO Box 10001 PMB 168, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by Petitioner is scheduled to be heard on August 6, 2020 at 10:00am, at Supreme Court Courtroom, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Decedent or her estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to Vincent J. Seman, Esq. at his address herein-above indicated.

Dated this 10 July 2020.

By: Judge Joseph Norita Camacho



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 8am** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (06/24/2020)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson's Report
- VII. Director's Report
- VIII. Investigator's Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor's Office
 - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
- XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
 - A. New Application
 - Pasatiempo (Physician) - Update
 - Seby (Temporary Physician) - Update
 - Wells Pharmacy Network, LLC (For Executive Session)
 - B. Renewal Applications
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- XV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH
Chairman



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net
Tel Nos. 670-234-6866/234-9447; Fax No: 670-234-9021

Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities. If you should require any special accommodations, please contact the Deputy Corporate Director 670-285-2146.

Arnold I. Palacios
Lt. Governor

AMENDED

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC COMMENT

Substantial Amendment to the Five Year Consolidated Plan (2015-2019) and Program Year 2019 Annual Action Plan

July 14, 2020

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) announce the availability for public review and comment, the Substantial Amendment to the Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2015 – 2019) / Annual Action Plan Program Year 2019.

NMHC's Citizen Participation Plan has triggered the need for a substantial amendment to both the Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2015- 2019) and the Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2019. The CNMI is seeking the public's comments to amend both the Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2015-2019) and the Annual Action Plan for the Program Year 2019 to include additional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) made possible through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to address the COVID19 pandemic in the CNMI. This is the second allocation for CDBG-COVID.

Program	Allocation	Project Description
CDBG-COVID	\$274,635	Emergency Housing Assistance (Mortgage Assistance); Planning and Administrative Costs

The CNMI seeks to amend its PY 2019 Annual Action Plan to reflect actions needed to expedite the CNMI's response to CoVid19 and to allocate funds to activities which will serve the low-moderate income population amidst the CoVid19 pandemic and which meets the HUD National Objectives.

The drafted Substantial Amendment to the Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2015 – 2019)/Annual Action Plan Program Year 2019 is available for review at the NMHC Office in Garapan and will be made available for review on the NMHC website and NMHC Facebook page beginning Tuesday, July 14, 2020. In addition, due to new protocols to mitigate the spread of CoVid19, NMHC will be hosting virtual hearings through the following online forums on Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

- 1) Social Media- FB Live
- 2) Zoom Video and Teleconferencing
Meeting ID: 889 6221 9873
Password: 169740
- 3) NMHC Website Feedback

The general public will be given the opportunity to provide comments at the virtual hearings. All written comments should be submitted through the NMHC website at www.nmhc.gov.net or delivered to the Drop Box located at the NMHC Office Building in Garapan, Saipan no later than Monday, July 20, 2020. For further information, please contact Zenie Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, at 670-285-2146.

/s/ Jesse. S. Palacios
Corporate Director

This advertisement is paid with HUD CPD Funds.

Apatang: Fewer resources to combat litter

With the loosening of COVID-19 restrictions and people now allowed in public beaches, more people are returning to the habit of having picnics in beaches, sometimes leaving behind piles of trash that are not ap-

propriately discarded. And that is a cause for worry for Saipan Mayor David Apatang. And it's not only in beaches but also villages, he said.

According to Apatang, his office has been picking up debris and more

litter along roads and villages. "Super Typhoon [Yutu] has been over two years already. Everyone in their household should be responsible and start picking up their own trash."

He reminded the public to pitch

when it comes to beautifying their respective neighborhoods, pointing out that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the operations of the Saipan Mayor's Office have decreased. They no longer have enough manpower to go around and pick up trash in villages. "Everyone in the village should be concerned and be considerate, especially during these times," he said in an interview. "Don't leave

your trash along the road and assume that the Saipan Mayor's Office will come and pick it up," he added.

The Saipan Mayor's Office is pinning its hope on a bill that Rep. Joel Camacho (R-Saipan) had introduced to discourage littering. "If you report somebody littering, you get an award of \$150. This is one way we can catch litterers," said Apatang. "People who litter should be ashamed of themselves. We are trying to clean up and beautify our island for its residents and tourists." (*Chevy Alipio*)

DHS

From Page 1

from ICE leaves about 50 of our students with little options," said NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico. This means that a total of 50 students could face deportation should they not be enrolled in a face-to-face class.

This new rule, announced last July 9, comes as many schools are migrating to online classes to adhere to social distancing rules as a means to control the spread of COVID-19 infections. This is no different from what NMC plans to do. "Given that we are still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the college is offering most of its classes in the fall 2020 semester through an online platform to maximize social distancing and safety of our students and employees" said Eliptico.

According to Eliptico, the new rules may force some NMC students to return to their home country, possibly lose their visa, and not complete their studies at NMC if they're not enrolled in any face-to-face classes. "Nonetheless, we will help our students and see how it will be possible to continue their studies while still complying with the mandates and reporting requirements of the new rules," Eliptico said.

He added that they are aware that Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology have sued the U.S. government to prevent it enforcing this rule.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement notified colleges Monday that international students will be forced to leave the U.S. or transfer to another college if their schools operate entirely online this fall. New visas will not be issued to students at those schools, and others at universities offering a mix of online and in-person classes will be barred from taking all of their classes online.

The guidance says international students won't be exempt even if an outbreak forces their schools online during the fall term.

In a statement, the U.S. State Department said that international students are welcome in the U.S., but the policy "provides greater flexibility for nonimmigrant students to continue their education in the United States, while also allowing for proper social distancing on open and operating campuses across America."

The guidance was released the same day Harvard announced it

would be keeping its classes online this fall. Harvard says the directive would prevent many of Harvard's 5,000 international students from remaining in the U.S.

Harvard president Lawrence Bacow said the order came without notice and that its "cruelty" was surpassed only by its "recklessness."

"It appears that it was designed purposefully to place pressure on colleges and universities to open their on-campus classrooms for in-person instruction this fall, without regard to concerns for the health and safety of students, instructors, and others," Bacow said in a statement Wednesday. "This comes at a time when the United States has been setting daily records for the number of new infections, with more than 300,000 new cases reported since July 1."

Universities across the U.S. say the more than 1 million international students have an important place in their communities. Many schools have also come to depend on revenue from international students, who typically pay higher tuition rates.

It creates an urgent dilemma for thousands of international students who became stranded in the U.S. last spring after the coronavirus forced their schools to move online. Those attending schools that are staying online must "depart the country or take other measures, such as transferring to a school with in-person instruction," according to the guidance.

"They may have just re-signed leases on apartments ... Our university starts in six weeks or seven weeks. They have been planning to be here, they have already spent money so it's really devastating," said University of Southern California lecturer Melanie Johnson.

The university last week reversed course on a plan to bring students to campus, saying classes will be hosted primarily or exclusively online. Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and Rutgers in New Jersey this week made similar announcements amid surging COVID-19 cases.

Johnson worries that even students who start off on campus will be prevented by travel restrictions from going home if a surge forces classes online mid-semester.

"What if a student like that, who for no fault of their own, finds themselves here without their classes and ends up in a detention center or deported?" she said.

Professors fielded messages from

frantic students seeking assurances that at least some of their courses would be face-to-face.

"They are, of course, all concerned," said University of Iowa Associate Professor Jan Wessel. "I am on board with anything we can do to circumnavigate these circumstances, and I'm willing to do any in-person arrangement if it helps a student."

But Wessel, who runs the university's cognitive neurology lab, said it was more important to take a stand against the policy "and say politics should not use our students as a poker chip in whatever they are trying to do." He said he would suspend his teaching if any of his students was forced out.

At Brown University, President Christina Paxson issued a statement supporting the Harvard and MIT lawsuit and said she was working with peers to find other ways to oppose the new policy.

The lawsuit, filed in Boston's federal court, seeks to prevent federal immigration authorities from enforcing the rule. The universities contend that the directive violates the Administrative Procedures Act because officials failed to offer a reasonable basis justifying the policy and because the public was not given notice to comment on it.

The White House's press secretary on Wednesday sidestepped a question about whether it was designed to pressure colleges to reopen their campuses, saying the policy "speaks for itself."

"You don't get a visa for taking online classes from, let's say, University of Phoenix, so why would you if you were just taking online classes generally?" Kayleigh McEnany said at a press briefing.

Paxson called the rule "nothing short of cruel" and said she would work with faculty to minimize the chance that students would have to leave the country if the Rhode Island university had to alter its plans for a blend of classes.

New York University President Andrew Hamilton also promised to work with international students to keep them in the U.S., calling the rule "needlessly rigid."

"If there were a moment for flexibility in delivering education, this would be it," he said. "Both on our own and in association with other universities, NYU will be reaching out to federal officials urging them to revoke or modify this rule." (*With AP*)

Resort to undergo quarantine. All officers immediately underwent COVID-19 testing, where they all tested negative. As per protocol, the responding officers were also immediately put into quarantine at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe until the results of their follow up COVID-19 test return negative. (*Saipan Tribune*)

the COVID-19 Task Force, who stated that a couple had just arrived from an inbound flight and kept refusing to be brought to the Kanoa Resort in Susupe to undergo the mandatory quarantine. Officers spoke to the couple and the woman finally agreed, but the husband continued to be uncooperative.

The woman was brought to Kanoa

MAN

From Page 1

the airport as two inbound passengers were refusing to undergo the mandatory COVID-19 quarantine upon arriving. Officers were sent to the scene and met with personnel from

CONTACT

From Page 1

self-quarantine but they were given the guidelines of how to do that," Muña said at the government's regular news briefing. "They actually did follow the instructions as given and we found out after our interview that they did limited exposure, limited movement. That is actually positive for us because even though they've been identified as COVID positive, it didn't affect them so far."

Muña also assured that contract tracing continues for the new COVID-19 cases.

Last Saturday, the returning residents were swabbed for specimen collection upon arriving on Saipan and were also called the same day when CHCC's COVID-19 test results turned out positive.

"We're still continuing with the contact tracing discussion and investigation but, so far, it looks like it's just them. They were tested on arrival, they went to their home, and then we called them about 5 o'clock to let them know they are positive. They were asymptomatic," Muña said

HOUSE

From Page 1

acknowledged the bipartisan nature of the committee, saying they may have different political affiliation but with a shared love for families, the community, and for serving the people of the CNMI.

The House legal counsel was instructed to draft subpoenas for several agencies, including the Department of Finance and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC so it could be asked about the community benefit fund. Also included in the subpoenas are the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Department of Public Safety, the Northern Islands Mayor's office, and any other agency that sent personnel and equipment to a trip that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres took to the Northern Islands to promote the region.

Committee members also cited a need for documents from the Department of Finance that are still pending, with House vice speaker Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) raising concerns on those that have redacted information.

"I want the committee, and also, our legal counsel to seek out in regards to redacting information from documents that we subpoenaed. We want to make sure what informa-

When asked whether the first positive case on Tinian could change interisland travel protocol, she said that they are still talking about it. "Right now, it seems like the system works. We are able to identify quickly who's positive or landing on our borders and are basically being tested right away and so we get the result basically before the end of the day."

"Again, the discussion with them," she added, "as soon as they land is that even if you are released, that you are going to follow the strict, restricted movement, making sure you wear a mask and all that."

Currently, returning residents on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota may be considered for exemption from quarantine, and be able to self-quarantine if they fill out the CNMI Mandatory Declaration Form at least three days prior to their arrival on Saipan, register and respond daily to the Sara Alert Symptom Monitoring System and exercise self-quarantine for 14 consecutive days as prescribed by CHCC, and consent to specimen collection for COVID-19 testing five days after arrival.

To date, the CNMI has a total of 33 cases, with two deaths and three active cases.

tion can be redacted. There are some excuses, social security is confidential information, I understand...but other information can be very suspicious," he said.

Some of the redacted information on the documents the legislators now have are of at least 17 credit card numbers, redacted up to the last four digits, that were used in various expenditures that were allegedly subsequently billed to taxpayers.

There was also talk about the need for two alternate members, also bipartisan, should any of the committee's eight members are not available.

"We should not leave any stone unturned," Rep. Luis John Castro (R-Saipan) said. "I know it's going to be a challenge but...it is important that we do what we're gathered here to do, on the documents that need to be reviewed, the actions that need to be taken, because the issues have affected our constituents."

Last week, House Speaker Blas Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan) established the bipartisan committee to carry out the investigation that was originally started by the House Ways and Means Committee, which is busy right now with the fiscal year 2021 budget.

"I have full confidence that we will be able to work together, to be fair, to be transparent throughout our investigation," said minority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan).

Over 2,000 fire calls so far this year—DFEMS chief

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

In the first half of 2020 alone, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services responded to over 2,000 calls about fires, underscoring the department's commitment to its duty despite cuts in its budget, according to DFEMS Commissioner Dennis James C.

Corp. files \$2.41M suit against IPI's sister company

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A corporation has filed a \$2.41-million lawsuit in federal court against a sister company of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC for allegedly refusing to leave a property in Tanapag despite its failure to pay rent and for causing damage to the property.

Unicorn Corp., through counsel Charity R. Hodson, is suing Forson Holdings (CNMI) LLC for removal per the Holdover Tenancy Act and for breach of contract.

Unicorn is engaged in the business of manufacturing cinder blocks and commercial

Mendiola.

Appearing at a House Ways and Means Committee budget hearing last Thursday, Mendiola reported that the department received and responded to a total of 2,439 suppression calls so far this year. "This is all fires, including brush fires, structure fires, trash fires. Some calls are just smoke but

the department has to make sure to prevent any injury in families in the area who may have asthma or whatever the case may be," he said.

Mendiola said DFEMS puts 100% into responding to emergencies despite major cutbacks as a result of the economic downturn the CNMI is facing. "When an emergency hits, we

go full on, we give it 100% support because we don't want to shortchange anyone in the community when it comes to emergency. We're trying our best to render the best services we can with the amount of resources we have," he said.

Mendiola said that some of those cuts include fuel cuts, reduction in overtime, and fur-

loughs. "What I did in the department is we just stopped non-responders from taking vehicles home, we don't allow overtime unless it's an emergency and it's justified—I think most of our costs is pretty much overtime due to emergencies and there's no way we can control that—but other stuff like travel, we shut it down, we've cut fuel by 30%," Mendiola said.

About 10 of the department's 123 staff members have also been furloughed. "Because there's a budget shortfall and there's a number we're trying to save to continuously pay staff so...furloughing 10 would help us continue to pay the entire department of

123 staff," he said.

The DFEMS staff that continue working are on a 64-hour work schedule.

The recent rescue mission for Honorio Encabo and the number of wildfires the department had to attend to have resulted in DFEMS needing extra funding to pay \$20,000 worth of overtimes, Mendiola said.

"We anticipated to have overtime but we didn't expect to have multiple brush fires. We didn't anticipate the search-and-rescue mission. We didn't see any of that. Emergency is on call. On a perfect day, I'm hoping guys don't respond but that's not the case," he said.

space rental.

Hodson said Forson Holdings (CNMI) LLC's sole member is Forson Holdings Limited, a British Virgin Islands corporation.

Hodson asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to issue a decree that Unicorn is entitled to immediate repossession of the affected property and to issue a writ commanding the person to whom the writ is directed to remove all persons from the property.

The lawyer asked the court to award Unicorn \$675,000 for rental due for the period of time that Forson has stayed on



Hodson

the property without paying rent and for the court to award her client \$1 million for double rent for the period of time that Forson continues to remain in possession of the property and refuses to vacate beginning from Oct. 5, 2018.

Hodson asked the court to award Unicorn \$738,923 in general damages for the cost to repair the property.

Unicorn also demanded an award of pre-judgment interest, attorneys' fees, and court costs.

According to Hodson in the complaint, Gab Du C. Chong, a U.S. permanent resident liv-

ing in the CNMI, held a long-term leasehold interest in the Tanapag lot, which contains a warehouse; four barracks; a factory; and two two-story (six units each) apartment complexes.

In 2016, Chong subleased the property to Forson Holdings for a term of two years. The sublease was signed by Cai Lingli, the stated authorized representative of Forson.

On Nov. 21, 2019, Mrs. Chong assigned her leasehold interest in the property to Unicorn Corp., the assignment of which included the sublease to Forson and all interest therein. Chong owns a 50% shareholder interest in Unicorn.

Woman convicted of harboring illegal alien child requests continued release

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A woman who was sentenced to 90 days in prison for harboring an illegal alien child asked the federal court yesterday to allow her to remain free while awaiting a final decision on her appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.



Berline

Lili Zhang Tydingco, through counsel Bruce Berline, said she is not a flight risk, not a danger to the community, and that her appeal and this request are not for purposes of delay.

Berline said Tydingco has and will present issues to the Ninth Circuit that are "substantial" in nature—fairly debatable—and that would require reversal if she prevails on either the issues presented.

Tydingco is currently out of custody pending notification by the U.S. Marshal Service that the Bureau of Prisons has designated a facility and that she is to report to begin serving her term of imprisonment.

Last June 29, Tydingco filed with the federal court a notice that she is appealing her conviction and sentence to the Ninth Circuit.

Berline said Tydingco has been at liberty for the entirety of this case—which has now spanned over four years. He said the defendant has lived on Saipan for approximately two decades and has been nearly continuously employed for that time. Tydingco is mar-

ried to a U.S. citizen and local resident of Saipan. She has three young children with her husband and is the primary breadwinner for the family and caretaker for the children as well as her mother-in-law.

Tydingco challenges her conviction on several grounds. First, Berline said, the instructions to the jury at trial were improper. Specifically, Berline said, Tydingco objected to the final jury instruction for "harboring an illegal alien."

Berline contends that the jury instruction does not adequately instruct the jury on the elements of the harboring and fails to instruct the jury on the requisite intent needed to convict Tydingco of harboring.

Last June 17, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced Tydingco to 90 days in prison and three years of supervised release after completing the prison term. Immediately upon release from prison, Tydingco is supposed to report to an immigration official for deportation. Tydingco was ordered to pay a \$500 fine and \$100 in special assessment fee.

On Sept. 9, 2019, a federal jury unanimously convicted Tydingco of harboring an illegal alien, which carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment. The prosecution called six witnesses, including the then 15-year-old Chinese girl who was the alleged harbored illegal alien.

The defense called two witnesses.

During the first trial in June 2016, the jury rendered a guilty verdict finding Tydingco guilty of one count of harboring an alien and her husband, Francisco Tydingco, guilty of aiding and abetting.

In December 2016, Manglona sentenced Lili Tydingco to 10 months' imprisonment with credit for time served. She sentenced Francisco Tydingco to 21 months of im-

prisonment, with credit for time served. The Tydingcos appealed to the Ninth Circuit to reverse their conviction and vacate their sentences.

In 2018, the Ninth Circuit reversed the convictions and remanded the case to the District Court for a new trial.

A superseding indictment was subsequently filed against Lili Tydingco. The U.S. government, however, then moved to dismiss the case against Francisco Tydingco.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP NO.: RFP20-DOC/SBDC-089

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 07, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"2020-2021 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR A MARKETING COORDINATOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, CNMI SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER DIVISION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE****

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA-EMAIL TO MS. **NICOLE BABAUTA** OR **MS. LORIE PANGELINAN** AT cnmisbdc@pacificsbdc.com, **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS JULY 23, 2020**. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PERSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **MARK O. RABULIMAN**
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/S/ **FRANCISCO C. AGUON**
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP20-DOC/SBDC-090 (A-C)

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 07, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"2020-2021 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR BUSINESS ADVISORS FOR A.) SAIPAN, B.) TINIAN, AND C.) ROTA FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, CNMI SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER DIVISION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA-EMAIL TO MS. **NICOLE BABAUTA** OR **MS. LORIE PANGELINAN** AT cnmisbdc@pacificsbdc.com, **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS JULY 29, 2020**. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PERSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/S/ **MARK O. RABULIMAN**
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/S/ **FRANCISCO C. AGUON**
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Echaluse inducted into Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society

An alumna of Marianas High School was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society.

Ma. Vida Amor Echalse, who also went to Garapan Elementary School and now lives in Portland, Oregon, was initiated at Portland State University. She is among approximately 30,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi

Kappa Phi each year.

Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10% of seniors and 7.5% of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10% of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded

in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann, who wanted one that recognizes excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the society has chapters on more than 300 campuses.

According to her mother, Echalse is a model of resilience. "She was married by the time she was 18 and stopped schooling after high school. ...After 10 years, she decided to go back to college. She did two years here [at Northern

Marianas College] then got a full scholarship from Build Exito to attend school in Portland," said Malou Berueco.

Since its founding, more than 1.5 million members have been initiated into Phi Kappa Phi. Some of the organization's notable members include former president Jimmy Carter, NASA astronaut Wendy Lawrence, novelist John Grisham and YouTube co-founder Chad Hurley.

Each year, Phi Kappa Phi

awards nearly \$1 million to outstanding students and members through graduate and dissertation fellowships, undergraduate study abroad

grants, funding for post-baccalaureate development, and grants for local, national and international literacy initiatives. *(Saipan Tribune)*

12 educators complete two year PSS Aspiring Leaders Program

The CNMI Public School System's Office of Instructional Technology & Distance Education celebrates 12 professionals who completed their Professional Administrative Certification requirements through the Aspiring Leaders Program.

Over the course of the past two years, program participants explored coursework that provides a strong foundation for both school and district leadership and administration. The program consists of Introduction to School Administration, Educational Law, Educational Technology for Administrators, Instructional Leadership, Supervision and Evaluation, School & District Finance, Facilitative Leadership, School Personnel as well as two internships.

In his welcoming remarks, Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada said, "You've committed two years of your life to learn about leadership, and now you've completed the Aspiring Leaders Program. The world of leadership is challenging, and you're now ready to lead and manage change. I thank you for your willingness to lead."

Each of the 12 participants were also given an opportunity to share their reflections as well as their personal leadership mantra. Among them was Alisa Pangelinan, who was

inspired to pursue educational leadership by her late father, Thomas D. Pangelinan, who was an educational pioneer serving as a former instructional leader and Board of Education member.

"With the right mindset, motivation, support, and faith nothing in life is difficult. The program has really helped to build my confidence to take on the position as a school leader," Pangelinan said. "The classes have really prepared me to successfully lead, practice what I have learned, and make the leadership lessons authentically my own to better serve the unique needs of my school."

Board of Education vice chair Herman Atalig congratulated the leaders and highlighted the importance of servant leadership.

Lorraine Catienza and Dr. Bobby Cruz, Instructional Technology & Distance Education leaders, expressed excitement to see the role of technology in supporting continued professional growth, particularly in the area of leadership.

The 12 Aspiring Leaders Program graduates include Anthony Frank, Le'ah Murphy, Pangelinan, Jerry Diaz, Jude Lose, Denise King, Catherine Acera-Cabrera, Lizelle Amirez, Jaclyn Quitugua, Martina Diaz, Benjamin Jones Jr., and Victorino Borja. *(PR)*



SEABEES ON TINIAN

Builder 1st Class Joseph Cantoral, from Bronx, N.Y., assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion-5, Builder 3rd Class James Gilson, from Detroit, and Builder Constructionman Gabrielle Overhultz, from Baytown, Texas, both assigned to NMCB-3, inventory a tool kit for a relief in place/transfer of authority from NMCB-5 to NMCB-3.

U.S. NAVY/CONSTRUCTION ELECTRICIAN CONSTRUCTIONMAN MARCUS HENLEY

Builder 3rd Class Matthew Gurrera, from Howell, N.J., assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion-3's Detail Tinian, cuts wood for building amenities for an expeditionary-style camp.

U.S. NAVY/CONSTRUCTION ELECTRICIAN CONSTRUCTIONMAN MARCUS HENLEY



Equipment Operator 3rd Class Thomas Jung, from Philadelphia, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion-3, moves a slab of concrete with a front-end loader for building an expeditionary-style camp.

U.S. NAVY/CONSTRUCTION ELECTRICIAN CONSTRUCTIONMAN MARCUS HENLEY



Steelworker 3rd Class Bryce Thompson, from New Castle, Ind., assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion-3's Detail Tinian, hammers in nails for the prefabrication of walls for a Southwest Asia hut while constructing an expeditionary-style camp.

U.S. NAVY/CONSTRUCTION ELECTRICIAN CONSTRUCTIONMAN MARCUS HENLEY



Builder 3rd Class Fernando Gonzalez, from West Covina, Calif., assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion-3's Detail Tinian, measures a stud for the prefabrication of walls for a Southwest Asia hut while constructing an expeditionary-style camp.

U.S. NAVY/CONSTRUCTION ELECTRICIAN CONSTRUCTIONMAN MARCUS HENLEY



Construction Electrician 3rd Class Manuel Torres, from Las Vegas, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion-3's Detail Tinian, places a marker on a stake during site surveying for a main road running through the detail's camp.

U.S. NAVY/CONSTRUCTION ELECTRICIAN CONSTRUCTIONMAN MARCUS HENLEY

CUC ADVISORIES

Scheduled power interruption on Thursday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be a scheduled power interruption on Thursday, July 16, 2020, from 8:30am to 12:30pm on Capital Hill.

This will allow CUC linemen are able to safely straighten two leaning wooden power poles within the affected area.

The power outage will affect Guguan Dr., Tano Ct., Pajaron Lp., Managaha Pl., Farallon Pl., Chalan Savana (Wireless), Marianas Ln., Kantit Ln., and Sariguan Dr. No water well(s) or wastewater lift station(s) will be affected.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). *(PR)*

Scheduled water outage in Gualo Rai

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be a scheduled water service interruption for a portion of Gualo Rai, specifically for customers located on Rai Drive to the corner of Robat and Espana Drive. Water outage is scheduled for Thursday, July 16, 2020, from 8am to 4pm.

This will allow CUC's contractor, AIC Marianas, to perform system improvements by connecting a new PVC line to the existing asbestos cement pipe for a more reliable water system.

For more information, contact the CUC hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates ([hags: www.facebook.com CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/](https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/)). *(PR)*

Friends of CWs hands out care packages on Tinian

The group Friends of CWs flew to the neighboring island of Tinian to distribute relief packages last Saturday at Natibu Park that benefited many foreign workers who have either been laid-off or furloughed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A total of 150 packages were handed out that day, according to group member Irene Holl.

The Friends of CWs has been giving relief goods to many foreign workers in the last few months and have completed distributions on Saipan and Rota. “We hope we would get more funding to help more households during these times,” said Holl.

The care packages distributed on Tinian contained canned goods, rice, butane canisters, milk, juices, noodles, peanut butter, cereals, toilet paper,

said. “We sincerely thank all the donors and volunteers for making the Tinian distribution possible. We thank Susan Perez and Rosita Aldan for coordinating the Tinian side, and Tinian International Women Association for hosting a dinner for the Saipan delegation.”

Among the group’s donors are the Tan Siu Lin Foundation,

Micronesian Air Cargo Services, Rotary Club of Saipan, Allen and Susan Perez, Islander Rent-a-Car, Victor and Suzie Ngiraswei, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. nurses, and anonymous donors.

Friends of CWs is working to resume the distribution on Saipan, now that they have completed distribution on Rota and Tinian. *(Chevy Alipio)*

Settlement Fund questions OAG opposition

By **Ferdie de la Torre**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Settlement Fund wonders why the Office of the Attorney General is opposing the Fund’s motion over a dispute between the CNMI government and the Public School System.

The Settlement Fund, through counsel Nicole M. Torres-Ripple, pointed out that the Commonwealth is not a party to the Superior Court case filed by PSS against Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Finance Secretary David Atalig.

Torres and Atalig have taken a legal position on the merits congruent with that of the Settlement Fund, said Torres-Ripple in the Fund’s reply filed Thursday before the federal court to the Commonwealth’s opposition to the Fund’s motion.

Torres-Ripple said to the extent that the Commonwealth’s opposition may even be considered, the U.S. District Court for the NMI should reject the Commonwealth’s attack on the court’s jurisdiction to consider the Settlement Fund’s motion, as well as its position that the payments under the settlement agreement in Betty Johnson’s class action are not grounded in the NMI Constitution—a point that even PSS concedes.

The OAG has asserted that the District Court should not inject itself in the dispute between the CNMI government and PSS over the annual PSS budget issue. Deputy Attorney General Lillian A. Tenorio recently asked the District Court to deny the NMI Settlement Fund’s request for a declaratory ruling that PSS is not entitled to 25% of the Settlement Revolving Fund and the amounts appropriated to the 25% benefit payments under the CNMI statute.

Tenorio also asked the court to deny the Settlement Fund’s request for a ruling that PSS’ actions violate the settlement agreement in Betty Johnson’s class action.

Under the settlement agreement in Johnson’s class action against the CNMI government and the NMI Retirement Fund in 2013, the CNMI government agrees to make annual payments that will enable the Settlement Fund to fund at least 75% of class members’ benefits.

Tenorio said the Settlement Fund’s legal basis for the relief falls outside the District Court’s jurisdiction under the Johnson’s settlement agreement as the Commonwealth’s obligation under that agreement are unaf-

ected by the PSS lawsuit filed in the Superior Court.

The deputy AG said the issue of PSS’ budget under the NMI Constitution is presently being litigated in the Superior Court, and the Commonwealth’s payment obligations to Settlement Fund are not in dispute.

In the Settlement Fund’s reply to the OAG’s motion Thursday, Torres-Ripple asked the federal court to disregard the Commonwealth’s opposition in its entirety because the Commonwealth lacks standing to oppose the Settlement Fund motion and that the Settlement Fund’s motion seeks to enforce the Johnson settlement agreement against PSS. The lawyer said the Superior Court action was filed by PSS against Torres and Atalig—not the Commonwealth. She said the Commonwealth is not a party to that lawsuit and has not intervened in that case.

Moreover, Torres-Ripple said, the governor and Atalig are not adverse to the Settlement Fund and have similarly opposed PSS’ challenges to the appropriation laws. “In fact, the Commonwealth has opened that there is only a ‘remote possibility’ that the appropriations laws will be invalidated,” she said.

Torres-Ripple asked the District Court to reject the Commonwealth’s argument that the settlement agreement payments are not constitutionally mandated. She said the argument completely ignores the plain language of the settlement agreement and final judgment and the Commonwealth offers no legal authority to support this position.

PSS and Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada, through counsel Tiberius Moacanú, are suing Torres and

Atalig before the Superior Court to guarantee for PSS an annual budget of not less than 25% of the Commonwealth’s general revenue, alleging that Torres and Atalig are in violation of the NMI Constitution.

PSS and Ada said that Public Law 21-08, which set the Commonwealth government’s budget for fiscal year 2020, appropriated \$37,718,904 to PSS, which is approximately 16% of the budget. PSS and Ada asked the court to declare that P.L. 21-08 is unconstitutional.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho recently granted the Settlement Fund’s motion to intervene in the lawsuit.

The Settlement Fund also filed a motion requesting that the District Court resolve PSS’ challenges to the constitutionally-mandated payment obligations owed the Settlement Fund under the settlement agreement entered in the Johnson’s class action.



Torres-Ripple

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-20-006

Archaeological Services for S19-068 Construction of Island Wide Sewerline Replacement (Lower MIHA) & W19-070 Construction of San Antonio Waterline Replacement

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from Archaeologists or firms that meet the U.S. Department of Interior qualifications (36CFR61) to create a work plan, to prepare information, data and documentation needed to conduct Section 106 Review of the National Historic Preservation Act for FY19 for the construction of a sewerline replacement in Lower MIHA & the construction of a waterline replacement in San Antonio, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval of the USEPA.

The projects have been broken down into the following detail:

S19-068 Construction of Island Wide Sewerline Replacement (Lower MIHA) – This project proposes to install approximately 700 linear feet of new 8-inch gravity sewer pipe in order to abandon an existing collapsed sewerline that was installed on private property. The project includes the installation of new manholes and the reconnection of existing sewer service laterals to the new sewer main.

W19-070 Construction of San Antonio Waterline Replacement – The project aims to upgrade and replace the existing ACP distribution main in San Antonio Village. This project will install about 2.1 miles of new 6-inch distribution main and .50 miles of 4-inch distribution main. The project will also include the replacement of all fire hydrants, gate valves, relocation and reconnection of existing service laterals, installation of new flush hydrants, air release valves, and asphalt road restoration.

The scope of Archaeological Services will include, but not be limited to:

1. Conducting the necessary research and fieldwork that represents a reasonable and good faith effort to identify historic properties, to include archaeological resources, as set out in the regulations 36 CFR § 800.4(b)(1):
 - a. Background research design and work plan;
 - b. Archival background information;
 - c. Sample field investigation, and field survey;
 - d. Past planning, research and studies;
 - e. The magnitude and nature of the undertaking;
 - f. The degree of federal involvement;
 - g. The nature and extent of potential effects on historic properties within the APE;
 - h. The likely nature, identification and location of historic properties within the APE; and,
 - i. Create a mitigation plan to resolve adverse effects.
2. Preparation of the necessary reports and letters for submittal to various federal and local resource agencies to address environmental requirements of Section 106 to completely secure concurrence for the projects ready for construction.
3. Deliverables
 - a. 2 copies of the final report for review and approval to HPO and CUC, and
 - b. Map showing the location of identified historic properties which would assist with alignment of the new waterline and sewerline to avoid such properties.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the PROPOSAL must be submitted in a SEALED ENVELOPE marked “CUC-RFP-20-006: Archaeological Services For Construction of Island Wide Sewerline Replacement (Lower MIHA) & Construction of San Antonio Waterline Replacement” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 14, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer’s preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 27, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer, via email address nicollette.villagomez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-20-007

Archaeological Services for S19-069 Construction of Afetna Sewer Collection Upgrade

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from Archaeologists or firms that meet the U.S. Department of Interior qualifications (36CFR61) to create a work plan, to prepare information, data and documentation needed to conduct Section 106 Review of the National Historic Preservation Act for FY19 for the construction of a new sewerline in Afetna Village, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval of the USEPA.

The existing Afetna sewer system was privately built and poorly installed due to excessive buildup of the Garment Industry. The project aims to replace the old system with approximately 5000 linear feet of new gravity sewer main with new sewer laterals and the installation of sewer manholes.

The scope of Archaeological Services will include, but not be limited to:

1. Conducting the necessary research and fieldwork that represents a reasonable and good faith effort to identify historic properties, to include archaeological resources, as set out in the regulations 36 CFR § 800.4(b)(1):
 - a. Background research design and work plan;
 - b. Archival background information;
 - c. Sample field investigation, and field survey;
 - d. Past planning, research and studies;
 - e. The magnitude and nature of the undertaking;
 - f. The degree of federal involvement;
 - g. The nature and extent of potential effects on historic properties within the APE;
 - h. The likely nature, identification and location of historic properties within the APE; and,
 - i. Create a mitigation plan to resolve adverse effects.
2. Preparation of the necessary reports and letters for submittal to various federal and local resource agencies to address environmental requirements of Section 106 to completely secure concurrence for the projects ready for construction.
3. Deliverables
 - a. 2 copies of the final report for review and approval to HPO and CUC, and
 - b. Map showing the location of identified historic properties which would assist with alignment of the sewerline to avoid such properties.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-RFP-20-007: Archaeological Services for S19-069 Construction of Afetna Sewer Collection Upgrade” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 14, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer’s preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

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GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

‘Because of my stupidity.’

The past few weeks will go down in history as some of the most disastrous in California history. After an unwise and unscientific rush to reopen the state, COVID-19 infections are spiking in California, including here in Sacramento. The California miracle has become the California nightmare. We bent the curve and avoided the worst-case scenario in March, April and May with an unprecedented statewide stay-at-home order.

Then, our leaders surrendered. Bowing either to political pressure or to scientifically dubious optimism, they initially refused to impose a mask requirement to help prevent the spread of the virus. Then, with no mask rule in place, they

» COVID-19 victim's last words a lesson for all

rushed to reopen bars, restaurants and churches before it was safe. They also refused to enforce the rules or crack down on flagrant violations.

The result of this failure of leadership was entirely predictable. Crowds packed the bars and restaurants. Families gathered for barbecues and parties. Martial arts gyms reopened without physical distancing or masks.

To be clear, most Californians did their part to protect public health by wearing masks, avoiding crowds and following public health rules. Unfortunately, some people dropped their guard, disregarded warnings and, for a brief moment, seemed to be enjoying a summer without consequences.

Until now. Infections are now surging in Sacramento County, where officials reported 1,000 new cases last week and Intensive Care Unit beds have become scarce. Nearly 6,000 Californians have died of the virus, and the number will continue to rise.

None of this is surprising. Anyone who had paid close attention to what had happened in other places that reopened too quickly saw this coming. Other countries and states that prematurely reopened also saw infections spike.

On May 29 this Editorial Board warned Sacramento residents against risking their lives by venturing out.

“Please don’t be fooled by the sudden wave of reopening restaurants, stores and salons around Sacramento,” we wrote. “COVID-19 still stalks California. It will infect and kill many more people before this pandemic ends.”

We noted that one local establishment “had patrons at every table and a crowd at the bar.” We noted that the governor’s mixed messages about the seriousness of the pandemic were confusing people. We noted that Lassen County had been forced to close down again after its rushed reopening resulted in a spike in infections.

“We are definitely headed in that direction, and the next four weeks will be pretty interesting,” Dr. Lisa Barcellos, a UC Berkeley epidemiologist, told us at the time.

West Sacramento Mayor Chris Cabaldon called Yolo County’s plans to reopen “a clear danger” to his city. He said California didn’t have the testing and contact tracing capabilities necessary to reopen safely.

See STUPIDITY on Next Page



Horror clouds every page of Mary Trump's book about her Uncle Donald

Mary Trump's book about her Uncle Donald is dark. Right from the get-go, when it begins with this feel-good epigraph from “Les Miserables”: If the soul is left in darkness, sins will be committed.

Already notorious, “Too Much and Never Enough” is Donald Trump's story, written by his niece, a clinical psychologist and Trump family dissident. It's being released this month after a failed effort, nominally by Donald's brother Robert, to get a court to stop its publication.

You can see why President Trump doesn't want anyone to read this thing. It gives the lie to many of his most cherished myths about himself, including the howler that he's self-made.

According to the book, Uncle Donald's ineptitude goes so deep it's hard to fathom. Mary reports that one of his sisters, casting around for something to give Donald credit for, proposed his five bankruptcies.

That kind of revelation produces a snicker from a reader like me, but that's all that passes for levity here. Horror clouds every page. I expected to encounter some seamy stuff in any history of the Trump family's fortune. After all, the money comes from brothels, tax evasion, bankrupt casinos, sketchy real-estate deals and a more or less stolen election.

But I also expected at least a little gritty urban romance. If not the sumptuous passions of “The Godfather,” the Trump saga would—I hoped—contain a moment or two of “Sopranos”-style wit.

Nothing doing.

The president's life story is narrow, provincial and grim—a joyless grind of fraud and cruelty evoked not by the gruesome glitz of Trump Tower but by the dreary Trump apartment Mary lived in as a child with her mother and father, Linda and Freddy Trump. Sloppily installed air conditioners rotted the drywall, and no amount of plastic sheeting could keep out the bitter wind; Trump Management, run by Freddy's father Fred and brother Donald, refused to fix it.

As a piece of writing, Mary Trump's book is less investigative expose than gruesome family memoir. Typically, barbarous families who land in memoirs barely scrape by, feeding the kids cat food and festering in the shadows. The barbarous Trump family, by contrast, runs the free world, feeds the kids gold and festers under klieg lights.

By now, you've probably encountered the bullet-pointed morsels from “Too Much and Never Enough,” especially the claim that Donald paid someone to take his SATs for him. These are mini-bombshells consistent with what the world knows of

By **VIRGINIA HEFFERNAN**
Los Angeles Times

Virginia Heffernan is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.



Trump. “Working the refs, lying, cheating”—this is how the Trump empire operates, Mary Trump writes. Likewise, the Trump White House and the president himself.

But even if Trump's cheating on the SAT is not exactly shocking, it's nonetheless satisfying to confirm what we guessed all along: The president never acquired baseline competence in math or vocabulary. (Seriously, try to picture him confronting even one polynomial. Trump working through coefficients and variables—he could sooner walk down a ramp.)

What's most intriguing about Mary Trump's book is not juicy revelations but its thesis: her idea that the Trumps were so deceitful and corrupt that growing up among them meant growing up “institutionalized,” stuck in an m.o. that cripples a person emotionally and cognitively every bit as much as a prison would.

And from his adolescence in reform school to his dotage in the Oval Office, as Mary writes, Donald has also been literally “institutionalized most of his adult life.” The chief hallmarks of that institutionalization were deceit and unearned trophies: “Honest work was never demanded of him, and no matter how badly he failed, he was rewarded in ways that are almost unfathomable.”

On election night 2016, Mary Trump, who had supported Hillary Clinton for president, says she was traumatized. She waited and then watched as her uncle was set loose “to turn this country into a macro version of my malignantly dysfunctional family.”

At the heart of that dysfunction, Mary contends, is relentless and incongruous puffery of Donald. First, Trump, though fundamentally infantile and mentally unwell, styled himself a stable genius, all evidence to the contrary. Then his father backed him up. Then the media spread the hype. Finally, and most crucially, banks fell for it.

As Mary elegantly puts it, “Their willingness (and then their need) to foster his increasingly unfounded claims to success

See HORROR on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Title insurance: What is it and who needs it?

If you've ever bought land or a home, you likely encountered the term "title insurance"—one of many potential mystery fees frequently paid at real-estate closing. But this fee has little in common with service charges and other vague-but-sort-of-legitimate-sounding expenses seemingly designed to pad the bill. Instead, the title-insurance bill is an investment in peace of mind.

To understand why, let's start with everyone's favorite topic—definitions. "Title" means ownership, which can be further divided into lesser forms of ownership such as a lease. Title is the right, for example, to sell, lease, or build a house on the land.

But it's not enough to say that you own the land; you must prove it through evidence. That's largely done through legal documents such as "deeds" and "ground leases," each of which memorialize title transfers from one person to another. Each deed or lease is signed, notarized, and then given to the Recorder's Office, which makes the document publicly accessible. Giving these documents to the Recorder's Office is known as "recording."

Confirming ownership is one of the key tasks during a real-estate transaction. And the title-insurance process is the main way of doing so. It involves the title-insurance company scouring the property's ownership history to figure out whether the seller owns the land, whether anyone else shares ownership with the seller, and whether the property has any other title defects like a lien or levy. Along the way, the title company will comb through a plethora of public records, including prior deeds, wills, trusts, divorce decrees, court judgments, tax records, and even bankruptcy filings.

At the conclusion of this research, the title company will issue what's known as a preliminary title report. Hopefully the PTR shows that the owner has "clear" title—meaning (among other things) that there are no liens, levies, encroachments, or disputes that the seller is the only property owner. But if the research turns up trouble spots, which happens about a third of the time nationally, then the seller and buyer can decide whether they want to fix the problems, cancel the deal, or renegotiate.

If the parties move forward with the deal, then the buyer usually purchases title insurance from the title company, payable at closing. This insurance is a one-time fee for the title company's promise to protect the buyer if anyone later challenges the buyer's ownership of the property.

At this point, you may be wondering why a buyer should bother with title insurance if the PTR shows that the seller has clear title. The reason is that title problems have a way of hiding for years or decades. And when they do surface, it will translate into not only an expensive legal bill but also potentially the loss of the property and all of the money you've previously paid.

How large is the risk that title problems will emerge years or decades after a PTR seemingly gave the property's title a clean bill of health? Nationwide, about 5 percent of title-insurance policies pay out, so about 1-in-20 times the title was not as clean as the PTR indicated, usually because of fraud, omitted heirs, undiscovered liens, or errors in the public record.

Now that we've discussed why title insurance is frequently a good idea, let's talk about what kind of problems a PTR will reveal. In the worst cases, it will expose criminal behavior—someone knowingly trying to sell property that they don't own at all. Sadly, I see this every year or two.

More common is that the PTR shows that the seller doesn't own as much of the property as they think. For example, they may co-own the property with an off-island sibling who hasn't been here in years but who nonetheless must sign off on the deal too, notwithstanding that the on-island sibling largely acts like the landowner day to day. Or the seller may not officially own the property, yet because they took possession of the land when their parents passed away but never formally transferred title to the property from the parents to themselves through a process known as probate (which is a court-supervised process for gathering a dead person's stuff, paying off their debts, and then transferring what remains to the heirs).

Other times, the PTR unearths ancient problems. Perhaps, for instance, a previous owner bought land from a single guy, not knowing that the land was marital property, so the guy's

FINE PRINTBy **JORDAN SUNDELL**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jordan Sundell is a lawyer primarily practicing business, real estate, estate-planning, and asset-protection law. He formerly worked for the CNMI Supreme Court and Bridge Capital and is now general counsel for several real-estate companies, including JZ Group. His columns—focused mainly on real estate, small business, and estate planning—are published every other Tuesday. Be sure to like the Fine Print on Facebook!

ex-wife needed to consent to the deal too. Or the seller may have inherited the property through a will that later turned out to be void because it was canceled by a later-created will that left the property to someone else.

The PTR can also reveal debts and other financial obligations that may need to be paid from the proceeds of the property sale. The most common debt is a mortgage. If one exists, you'll want to check if the sale price is higher than the balance due on the mortgage. If not, the buyer will be stuck with the unpaid balance after the sale. Meanwhile, the most common liens include tax liens, child-support liens, and mechanic's liens. These liens stick to the property like glue; transferring title to someone else does not get rid of them. So, a buyer will want the seller to solve them before the property changes hands.

To sum up: If you plan to buy property, get a PTR. It will surface most title problems (assuming there are any). And if you want peace of mind, buy title insurance. It's a one-time expense to know you're protected if the PTR missed something.

This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

The war on terror survives Rand Paul's attempt to end it

It seems quaint to note in the summer of 2020 that America's global war on terror will soon enter the last year of its second decade. Yet it's not something that the junior senator from Kentucky, who has long opposed it, is prone to forget—and though Rand Paul's attempts to end it are misguided, he is not wrong about Congress's dereliction of duty.

On Sept. 14, 2001, Congress passed—with only one dissenting vote—the authorization for the use of military force against those who had attacked the U.S. three days before. Since its passage, the U.S. has conducted drone strikes and commando raids throughout most of the Islamic world, and in Afghanistan, the U.S. has waged the longest war in its history. All of this has had the consent of Congress because of the resolution passed just after the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Paul tried and failed last week to revoke that authorization. His amendment to the bill authorizing spending for the 2021 defense budget would also have required the Pentagon to devise an orderly withdrawal strategy from Afghanistan and award all

military who fought in that war a bonus of \$2,500.

Given that both major parties now appear to support ending the Afghanistan war, it would be reasonable to expect that resolution to have made its way into the Defense Department spending bill. But it failed by a vote of 60 to 33 in a procedural motion.

For now, that is a good thing. Even President Donald Trump's ill-considered gambit in Afghanistan does not go as far as Paul's plan: In theory, Trump's withdrawal strategy could be paused or reversed based on the Taliban's compliance with a secret annex signed earlier this year.

Nonetheless, there is a kernel of a good idea in Paul's proposal. The 2001 authorization should not be scrapped altogether—it should be amended. As things now stand, Congress has little buy-in when it comes to what the U.S. does overseas in the war on terror. In this sense it has abdicated the oversight and war-making authorities granted to it in the Constitution. A better approach would be for the legislative branch to update the authorization and set it to expire unless

renewed by a future Congress.

Paul and his supporters are correct when they point out that today al-Qaeda, the group responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks, is far weaker than it was nearly 20 years ago. At the same time, other terrorist threats have gotten stronger. The real threat to the U.S. and its allies has always been weak and corrupt governments in the Islamic world that enable terror organizations to take over large swaths of territory. That threat does not disappear just because America stops fighting.

By ELI LAKE

Bloomberg News



Eli Lake is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering national security and foreign policy. He was the senior national security correspondent for the Daily Beast and covered national security and intelligence for the Washington Times, the New York Sun and UPI.

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Congress cannot just sit on the sidelines simply because the war against jihadist terror is long. A new generation of lawmakers should have a chance to vote for or against this war.

HORROR

From Page 8

hung on the hopes of recouping their losses."

That dynamic could apply equally to Trump's enablers, dependents and supporters.

"Too Much and Never Enough" isn't a gossipfest. It isn't "rollicking." It's a bleak story, and there's no redemption. The country, like Donald Trump's creditors, will not recoup its losses.

In the end, Mary Trump stays true to the despair she felt on election night. She manages not to qualify it or wish it away. Refusing to flinch from the darkness of Trump's story is no small accomplishment. We should all be so brave.

STUPIDITY

From Page 8

And here we are: Shutting down again as infections spike.

Gov. Gavin Newsom, and Sacramento County Public Health Director Peter Beilenson, own the most responsibility for this unfolding catastrophe. At a time when COVID-19 still posed a serious threat to public health and safety, they gave the green light to reopen. Many people interpreted their actions as a signal that it was fine to relax and return to normal life. Newsom and Beilenson must learn from these mistakes and avoid repeating them. They must follow science and refuse to be cowed by political pressure.

The rising infections we see today are the direct result of their error and, once the deaths are counted, they will need to fully account for their terrible decisions. Our leaders are not, however, solely to blame for this deadly debacle. The people who crowded the bars, refused to wear masks or decided to hold parties in the

middle of the deadliest pandemic in memory must also take a look in the mirror. The irresponsible actions of a few have set us all back. Some people will pay with their lives due to these lapses in judgment.

"I went out a couple of weeks ago ... because of my stupidity I put my mom and sisters and my family's health in jeopardy," wrote Thomas Macias, a 51-year-old truck driver from Southern California who got infected with COVID-19 after attending a party last month. "This is no joke. If you have to go out, wear a mask, and practice social distancing."

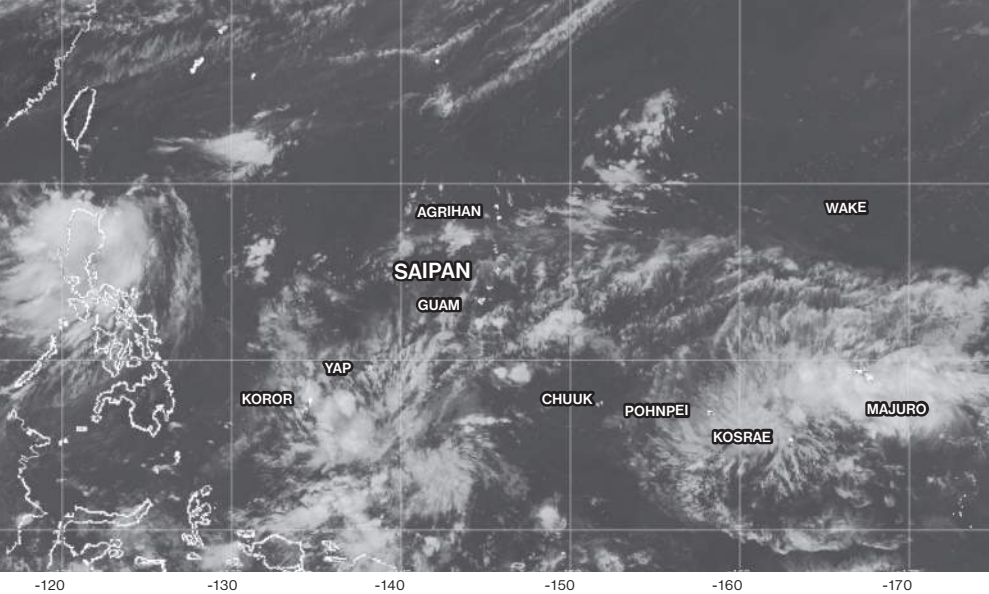
Macias died the day after he wrote this, according to NBC News, but his final words are the best advice you'll ever get.

Don't be stupid. Stay home. Avoid crowds. Wear a mask. Stay alive so that you — and your loved ones — can celebrate the day this coronavirus nightmare finally ends.

(c)2020 *The Sacramento Bee* (Sacramento, Calif.)

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
90°	78°	89°	78°	90°	78°	90°	79°	89°	79°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:00 AM, MONDAY, JULY 13, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Gentle trades and isolated showers are seen across the Marianas this morning. Skies are mostly cloudy, with quite a bit of mid and upper-level cloudiness. All three buoys are indicating seas near 3 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

- ### Continue good hand hygiene

 - Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
 - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

- ### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

 - Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not avail-

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°	
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Showers	86° / 77°	
Kosrae	Showers	86° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	84° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:34 AM	1:12 PM	-
Wednesday	1:11 AM	2:00 PM	-
Thursday	1:50 AM	2:50 PM	-
Friday	2:32 AM	3:43 PM	-
Saturday	3:19 AM	4:38 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Rain	57° / 52°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	93° / 70°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	91° / 82°	
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 75°	
London	Cloudy	68° / 54°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	81° / 63°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	93° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	57° / 43°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	88° / 70°	
Osaka	Showers	79° / 72°	
Paris	Showers	73° / 59°	
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	73° / 66°	
Rome	Sunny	86° / 66°	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	95° / 72°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	85° / 54°	
Seoul	Sunny	82° / 66°	
Tokyo	Showers	79° / 66°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	91° / 71°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:03 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.91	
9:13 AM	LOW TIDE	0.75	
3:18 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.48	
8:25 PM	LOW TIDE	1.07	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri				
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri				
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA				2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

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Business



KRIZEL TUAZON

Customers are asked to undergo temperature checks and dab their hands with sanitizer before dining in.

By **MARK RABAGO**

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Diehard fans of Shirley's Coffee Shop's fried rice, seafood omelet, palabok, half-chicken, and halo-halo can relax now as the institution in the island's food industry is back after being closed for nearly a month.

General manager Puy Macario said the COVID-19 pandemic forced them to shutter their doors for several weeks.

"We closed on March 23 and reopened on April 17, but only our Susupe location. We reopened the Garapan location last April 27. ...Now that we

are in Community Vulnerability Level 'Blue,' we are now open from 6am to 10pm in both branches."

Like other businesses, Shirley's Coffee Shop wasn't exempt from ill effects of the pandemic. "No business was spared I guess. For a while we completely stopped our operations. Even though we are back now, there are still a lot of people who prefer to do their food preparations at home," he said. That means the restaurant's sales went down. "I think this applies to most businesses on island. Down in sales, of course,



Shirley's

famous fried rice is back



MARK RABAGO

A customer has her temperature checked at Shirley's Coffee Shop's Susupe branch.

translates to lesser customers. But since we reopened we are slowly picking up on

our sales and customers."

Before reopening, though, Macario made sure that Shir-

ley's Coffee Shop is compliant with all COVID-19 preventive measures prescribed by the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

"Of course, those instructions released by the government, like the wearing of masks and social distancing of 6 feet apart, are being strictly observed. We also require our staff to frequently sanitize and wash their hands with water and soap," he said.

All restaurant staff also undertook the COVID-19 swab test and are required to take a thermal temperature scan prior to beginning their shift assignments. "We've also told

KRIZEL TUAZON

Shirley's Coffee Shop reopened the Garapan location last April 27, 10 days after the Susupe branch reopened.

them not to come to work if they feel sick or have any COVID-19 symptoms."

Those who missed Shirley's Coffee Shop would be delighted to know that its full menu is back since the reopening of its dine-in services.

"Our regular menu is available both for takeout and dine-in. Our platters that we started during the takeout-only operation days were discontinued after Father's Day. Perhaps in the future, we may consider it again. [But] for now, we are kind of limited with staff assignment. Platter entails a lot of preparation time," said Macario.

Shirley's Coffee Shop, which was founded in Guam in 1983 by the restaurant's iconic namesake, Shirley Lai, is just happy to remain relevant 27 years after opening its first branch in Chalan Laulau.

"We thank our customers for their continued patronage. We have been blessed with such loyal customers. We're very optimistic that a vaccine will be available soon. This will bring back to normal all the things we used to do, along with it, the return of our economy to normalcy," said Macario.

For more information, to pre-order, for to reserve seats, call Shirley's Coffee Shop at either its Garapan branch at 233-4519/20 or its Susupe branch at 235-5379/80.

As beach towns open, businesses are short of foreign workers

BOSTON (AP)—At this time of the year, The Friendly Fisherman on Cape Cod is usually bustling with foreign students clearing tables and helping prepare orders of clam strips or fish and chips.

But because of a freeze on visas, Janet Demetri won't be employing the 20 or so workers this summer. So as the crowds rush back, Demetri must work with nine employees for her restaurant and market—forcing her to shutter the business twice a week.

"It's really disturbing because we are really busy," said Demetri. "We can't keep up once the doors are open."

The Trump administration announced last month that it was extending a ban on green cards and adding many temporary visas to the freeze, including J-1 cultural exchange visas and H-2B visas. Businesses from forestry to fisheries to hospitality depend on these visas, though there are exceptions for the food pro-

cessing sector.

The move was billed as a chance to free up 525,000 jobs to Americans hard hit by the economic downturn, though the administration provided no evidence to support that. Supporters of immigration reform have hailed the move and insisted it should be easy to find Americans to bus tables and sell souvenirs at popular tourist destinations.

"The work that people on H-2B visas do or on J-1 summer work travel is not something that is alien to Americans," said Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies, which advocates for restrictions. "Those jobs are already mostly done by Americans whether its landscaping, making beds or scooping ice cream. The employers are just going to have to up their game in recruitment because there are 20 million people who are unemployed whom they could

be drawing from."

Hardest hit by the ban are beach communities and mountain getaways up and down the East Coast from parts of New Hampshire to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Businesses said they want to hire Americans but are in regions with tiny labor pools that are no match for the millions of tourists visiting each summer. Companies also face the challenge of convincing unemployed workers, many who are still collecting federal benefits, to take a job in the hospitality industry amid a pandemic. Rising housing prices as well as a lack of child care amid the pandemic also pose hurdles.

Mark Carchidi, whose company Antioch Associates USA II Inc. processes paperwork for H-2B visas on the East Coast, said businesses he works with were counting on an additional 30,000 visas this year beyond the 66,000 already allowed under the program.

UK-China ties freeze with debate over Huawei, Hong Kong

LONDON (AP)—Only five years ago, then-British Prime Minister David Cameron was celebrating a "golden era" in U.K.-China relations, bonding with President Xi Jinping over a pint of beer at the pub and signing off on trade deals worth billions.

Those friendly scenes now seem like a distant memory.

Hostile rhetoric has ratcheted up in recent days over Beijing's new national security law for Hong Kong. Britain's decision to offer refuge to millions in the former colony was met with a stern telling-off by China. And Chinese officials have threatened "consequences" if Britain treats it as a "hostile country" and decides to cut Chinese technology giant Huawei out of its critical telecoms infrastructure amid growing unease over security risks.

All that is pointing to a much tougher stance against

China, with a growing number in Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative Party taking a long, hard look at Britain's Chinese ties. Many are saying Britain has been far too complacent and naive in thinking it could reap economic benefits from the relationship without political consequences.

"It's not about wanting to cut ties with China. It's that China is itself becoming a very unreliable and rather dangerous partner," said lawmaker and former Conservative leader Iain Duncan Smith. He cited Beijing's "trashing" of the Sino-British Joint Declaration—the treaty supposed to guarantee Hong Kong a high degree of autonomy when it reverted from British to Chinese rule—and aggressive posturing in the South China Sea as areas of concern.

"This is not a country that is in any way managing itself to be a good and

decent partner in anything at the moment. That's why we need to review our relationship with them," he added. "Those who think this is a case of separating trade from government ... you can't do that, that's naive."

Duncan Smith has lobbied other Tory lawmakers to cut Huawei out from Britain's superfast 5G network. Not only that: He says all existing Huawei technology in the U.K. telecoms infrastructure also needs to be eliminated as soon as possible.

The company has been at the center of tensions between China and Britain, as U.K. officials review how the latest U.S. sanctions—imposed over allegations of cyber spying and aimed at cutting off Huawei's access to advanced microchips made with American technology—will affect British telecom networks.

Nation

As US grapples with virus, FLORIDA HITS RECORD CASE INCREASE

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—With the United States grappling with the worst coronavirus outbreak in the world, Florida hit a grim milestone Sunday, shattering the national record for a state's largest single-day increase in positive cases.

Deaths from the virus have also been rising in the U.S., especially in the South and West, though still well below the heights hit in April, according to a recent Associated Press analysis of data from Johns Hopkins University.

"I really do think we could control this, and it's the human element that is so critical. It should be an effort of our country. We should be pulling together when we're in a crisis, and we're definitely not doing it," said University of Florida epidemiologist Dr. Cindy Prins.

Adm. Brett Giroir, a member of the White House coronavirus task force, called mask-wearing in public, which has been met with resistance in some U.S. states, "absolutely essential."

Giroir, the assistant secretary at the Health and Human Services Department, told ABC's "This Week" on Sunday that "if we don't have that, we will not get control of the virus."

President Donald Trump wore a mask in public for the first time Saturday, something Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Sunday showed he has



Guests wear masks as required to attend the official reopening day of the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., Saturday, July 11, 2020.

"crossed a bridge."

Pelosi told CNN's "State of the Union" that she hopes it means the president "will

change his attitude, which will be helpful in stopping the spread of the coronavirus."

In hard-hit Houston, Texas,

two top Democratic officials called for the nation's fourth-largest city to lock back down as area hospitals strained to accommodate the onslaught of sick patients.

In Florida, where parts of Walt Disney World reopened Saturday, 15,299 people tested positive, for a total of 269,811 cases, and 45 deaths were recorded, according to state Department of Health statistics reported Sunday.

California had the previous record of daily positive cases — 11,694, set on Wednesday.

The numbers come at the end of a record-breaking week as Florida reported 514 fatalities — an average of 73 per day. Three weeks ago, the state was averaging 30 deaths per day.

Researchers expect deaths to rise in the U.S. for at least some weeks, but some think the count probably will not go up as dramatically as it did in the spring because of several factors, including increased testing.

The World Health Organization, meanwhile, reported another record increase in the number of confirmed coronavirus cases over a 24-hour period, at over 230,000.

The U.N. health agency said the United States again topped the list among countries, with more than 66,000 cases. The figures don't necessarily account for delays in reporting cases, and are believed to far underestimate actual totals.

Countries in Eastern Europe were among those facing ris-

ing waves of new infections, leading to riots in Serbia, mandatory face masks in Croatia and travel bans or quarantines imposed by Hungary.

"We see worrisome signs about an increase in the number of cases in the neighboring countries, Europe and the whole world," said Gergely Gulyas, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's chief of staff. "Now, we have to protect our own security and prevent the virus from being brought in from abroad."

Hungarian authorities said Sunday they have sorted countries into three categories — red, yellow and green — based on their rates of new coronavirus infections, and will impose restrictions, including entry bans and mandatory quarantines, depending on which country people are arriving from.

Serbia, where health authorities are warning that hospitals are almost full due to the latest surge, reported 287 new infections on Sunday, although there have been increasing doubts about the accuracy of the figures. Officially, the country has over 18,000 confirmed infections and 382 deaths since March. Sunday's report of 11 coronavirus deaths was the country's second-highest daily death toll.

Serbian police clashed with anti-government protesters for four nights last week, demonstrations that forced the Serbian president to withdraw plans to reintroduce a coronavirus lockdown. Many of the increasing infections have been blamed on crowded soccer matches, tennis events and nightclubs.

In Bulgaria, authorities reintroduced restrictions lifted a few weeks ago because of a new surge in cases.

Albania also has seen a significant increase in infections since mid-May, when it eased lockdown measures. The Balkan nation reported 93 new cases, over twice as many as the highest daily figures in March and April, and the health ministry called the situation at the main infectious disease hospital "grave."

2nd person of interest announced in death of 8-year-old girl

ATLANTA (AP)—Images of a second person of interest in the fatal shooting of an 8-year-old girl in Atlanta were released late Sunday as police searched for at least two shooters believed to be responsible for her death.

Authorities were also offering a \$20,000 reward for information in the shooting death of Secoria Turner. She was shot and killed July 4th while riding in a car with her

mother and another adult. The shooting happened near the Wendy's where a Black man, Rayshard Brooks, 27, was killed by a white police officer June 12.

The second person of interest is seen with a large rifle strapped to his body and a black crossbody bag over his shoulder. Atlanta police had released a short video last week of the first person of interest, who is also seen carry-

ing a rifle near where Secoria was shot.

A private, invitation-only funeral for Secoria was planned for Wednesday. A representative for Tyler Perry said the filmmaker and actor has offered to pay for the service. Perry also offered to pay for Brooks' funeral.

A public viewing is to be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday at Murray Brothers Funeral Home in Atlanta.

21 injured in fire aboard ship at Naval Base San Diego

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Twenty-one people suffered minor injuries in an explosion and fire Sunday on board a ship at Naval Base San Diego, military officials said.

The blaze was reported shortly before 9 a.m. on USS Bonhomme Richard, said Mike Raney, a spokesman for Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Seventeen sailors and four civilians were hospitalized with "non-life threatening injuries," Raney said in a brief statement. He didn't provide additional details.

Previously, officials said at least one person was treated for smoke inhalation.

The cause of the fire was under investigation. It wasn't immediately known where on the 840-foot (255-meter) amphibious assault vessel the blast and the fire occurred. The flames sent up a huge plume of dark smoke visible around San Diego.

Rear Adm. Philip Sobeck, commander of Expeditionary Strike Group 3, told the San

Diego Union-Tribune that the Navy thinks the fire began somewhere in a lower cargo hold where marine equipment and vehicles are stored.

The fire was not a fueled by fuel oil, hazardous materials or electrical causes, Sobeck told the newspaper. It was fueled by paper, cloth, rags or other materials in a standard fire. Sobeck said he is not concerned about the air quality or toxicity around the fire.

There was no ordnance on board, Sobeck said. There are a million gallons of fuel on board, he said, but that is "well below" any heat source.

The explosion was probably caused by a change in air pressure, Sobeck told the Union-Tribune.

San Diego is the Bonhomme Richard's home port, and the ship was undergoing routine maintenance at the time of the fire.

About 160 sailors and officers were on board, Raney said—far fewer than the thousand typically on the ship when it's on active duty.

All crew members were accounted for, said Admiral Mike Gilday, Chief of Naval Operations.

"We are grateful for the quick and immediate response of local, base, and shipboard firefighters aboard USS Bonhomme Richard," Gilday said in a statement.

The 23-year-old ship has the capacity to deploy and land helicopters, smaller boats and amphibious vehicles. Because of its age, a fire could be particularly destructive, especially if it reached the engine room and other tight spaces with machinery, said Lawrence B. Brennan, a professor of admiralty and international maritime law at Fordham University in New York.

"The heat of a fire of this nature can warp the steel, and that can be a major problem for any ship," said Brennan. "On an older ship, it's even more of a problem."

Two other docked ships, USS Fitzgerald and USS Russell, were moved to berths away from the fire, officials said.

Asia

Seoul mayor's funeral draws both condolences and insults

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Masked mourners gave speeches and laid flowers before the coffin of Seoul's mayor during his funeral Monday, while a live broadcast online drew a mixture of condolence messages and insults.

Since Park Won-soon was found dead Friday in a wooded area in northern Seoul, the South Korean public has been sharply split over how to commemorate his death due to media reports that one of his secretaries had lodged a complaint with police alleging sexual harassment. Police have confirmed that a complaint against Park was filed but not given any details.

The reports have nevertheless tarnished the image of Park, a liberal who built his career as a reform-minded politician and a champion of women's rights. He was considered as a potential candidate to run for president in 2022.

Park's funeral committee had reportedly planned to hold a large-scale outdoor memorial near Seoul City Hall. But more than 561,000 people signed a petition opposing such a funeral and calling for a quiet family funeral.

In the end authorities allowed only about 100 people to attend Monday's funeral at



A mourner passes by a memorial altar for late Seoul Mayor Park Won-soon at City Hall Plaza in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, July 13, 2020.

City Hall and asked others to watch it on YouTube.

The ceremony began with silent tributes and a video on Park's life. Masked orchestra members, all clad in black, played "Air on the G String," before co-leaders of the funeral committee, including ruling Democratic Party chief Lee Hae-chan, made speeches.

The mayor's daughter, Park Da-in, wept when she said she felt both sorry and grateful to city officials who she said must have been more shocked than anyone by her father's death.

"Thanks to them, our family is overcoming the difficult times little by little," she said.

A stream of sympathy mes-

sages was posted online during the live broadcast, including ones that read "Please, rest in peace," "I'm heartbroken" and "You're the best mayor."

But as the funeral continued, his critics also left messages such as "Shame on you," "Hypocrite" and "What are you doing with taxpayers' money?"

The funeral ended after Park's family and others deeply bowed and laid white flowers before a floral coffin topped with his framed funeral photo. When the coffin was moved out of the building for a cremation and burial later Monday, some of his supporters cried and shouted "Mr. Mayor! Mr. Mayor" and "We love you."

PH: China should comply with sea feud ruling

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines on Sunday renewed its call for compliance with a 4-year-old arbitration ruling that invalidated China's vast claims in the disputed South China Sea on historical grounds "without any possibility of compromise."

Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. issued the call on the anniversary of the July 12, 2016, ruling by an international tribunal in The Hague that he said "conclusively settled the issue of historic rights and maritime entitlements in the South China Sea" based on the 1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea.

"The award is non-negotiable," Locsin said in a statement. "The tribunal authoritatively ruled that China's claim of historic rights to resources within the sea ... had no basis in law."

It's the strongest statement the Philippines has issued so far in marking the milestone. China has dismissed the decision as a "sham" and refused to participate in the arbitration proceedings

after the administration of Philippines' president at the time, Benigno Aquino III, challenged in 2013 China's claims to virtually the entire disputed waters.

China has continued to defy the decision with aggressive actions that have brought it into territorial spats with Vietnam, the Philippines and Malaysia in recent years.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, who has nurtured close ties with China since taking office in 2016, raised the issue last year in Beijing with his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, who he said flatly told him then, "We will not budge."

Duterte has long been criticized by nationalists and left-wing groups for not immediately and strongly demanding Chinese compliance with the ruling, which he initially relegated to the back burner while he took steps to revive relations with China that have been strained due to the long-raging territorial conflicts. He has turned to China for trade, investment and aid while of-

ten lashing out at U.S. security policies.

Aside from China and the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have also laid claims to the strategic waters. The United States has no claims to the waters but has deployed warships and aircraft for decades to patrol and promote freedom of navigation and overflight in the busy waterway.

The ruling also upheld the Philippines' sovereign rights over a wide stretch of waters called the exclusive economic zone, where Chinese territorial claims have delayed for years Manila's plan to explore and extract potential undersea deposits of oil and gas.

Locsin said the arbitration tribunal ruled that certain actions within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone violated the country's sovereign rights and "were thus unlawful." He outlined other Chinese violations cited by the tribunal, including the large-scale reclamation and construction of artificial islands that caused severe environmental damage.

World

AS VIRUS SURGES

South Africa returns ban on alcohol sales

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—South African President Cyril Ramaphosa says the country will immediately return to a ban on the sale of alcohol to reduce the volume of trauma patients so that hospitals have more beds open to treat COVID-19 patients.

Confronted by surging hospitalizations due to the coronavirus, South Africa is also reinstating a night curfew to reduce traffic accidents and made it mandatory for all residents to wear face masks when in public.

Ramaphosa said, in a nationally televised address Sunday night, that top health officials warn of impending shortages of hospital beds and medical oxygen as South Africa reaches a peak of COVID-19 cases, expected between the end of July and September. He said some hospitals have had to turn away patients because all their beds are full.

South Africa's rapid increase in reported cases has made it one of the world's centers for COVID-19, as it is ranked as the 9th country most affected by the disease, according to Johns Hopkins University. The country has reported increases of more than 10,000 confirmed cases for several days and the latest daily increase was nearly 13,500. South Africa accounts for 40% of all the

confirmed cases in Africa, with 276,242, an increase of 12,058 in one day.

South Africa has recorded 4,079 deaths, 25% of which have been in the past week, said Ramaphosa.

"While the surge of infections has been expected, the force and the speed with which it has progressed has, quite understandably, caused great concern," said Ramaphosa. "Many of us are fearful of the danger this presents for ourselves, and for our families."

Ramaphosa said that since the sale of alcohol was reintroduced on in June, hospitals have experienced a spike in admissions in their trauma and emergency wards.

The countrywide curfew mandates that people must not be on the roads between 9 p.m. and 4 a.m. effective Monday.

Masks have also been declared mandatory, with all transport operators, employers, and owners of businesses and buildings now legally obliged to ensure everyone entering their businesses or premises are wearing masks.

Ramaphosa lambasted citizens who have continued to have social gatherings, including parties and overcrowded funerals, saying they had contributed significantly to the rapid spread of the virus.

"In the midst of our national effort to fight against this virus there are a number

of people who have taken to organizing parties, who have drinking sprees, and some who walk around in crowded spaces without masks," he said.

South Africa imposed one of the world's strictest lockdowns in April and May, including closing virtually all mines, factories and businesses, and a ban on sales of liquor and cigarettes. The measures slowed the spread of the coronavirus but South Africa's economy, already in recession, contracted dramatically, increasing unemployment above 30% and hunger.

In June the country began relaxing restrictions to allow millions of South Africans to return to work. The easing of restrictions allowed the sales of alcohol on four days a week. However, within a few weeks the country's numbers of confirmed cases and hospitalizations increased dramatically, bringing Ramaphosa to reimpose the ban on alcohol sales and other restrictions.

More than 30% of South Africa's cases are in the economic hub of Gauteng province, which includes the largest city, Johannesburg, and the capital, Pretoria. The tourist center of Cape Town also has a high number of cases. Johannesburg's densely populated Soweto township has a high concentration of cases, according to officials.

New British-French deal to fight 'vile people smuggling'

PARIS (AP)—France and Britain signed an agreement Sunday to share intelligence in their joint fight against the human traffickers who are illegally smuggling migrants across the English Channel.

French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said the deal to set up a French-British intelligence unit would allow for better exchanges of information about smuggling networks.

British Home Secretary Priti Patel said the new unit "will crack down on gangs behind vile people smuggling." Patel crossed the Channel to visit the northern French city of Calais to sign the deal with Darmanin. She described levels of illegal migration across the waterway as "unsustainable." Crossing attempts have been surging.

"Despite all of the action taken by law enforcement to date - intercepting the boats, making arrests, returning people to France and putting the criminals responsible behind bars - the numbers continue to increase," Patel said. "This simply cannot be allowed to go on."

People smuggling across the Channel and migrant camps that regularly spring up along France's northern coast have proven to be an intractable problem for both governments. Britain's previously strong economy and need for farm and restaurant labor drew migrants from around the world who could speak some English. Calais over the years has unwillingly hosted rudimentary, overcrowded migrant camps that sprung up, slums so poor and violent that one was

dubbed "the Jungle."

The new unit will be staffed both by French and British officers and will exploit intelligence to help prevent crossings and dismantle smuggling gangs. Patel described it as "the start of a new operational approach."

Darmanin said he pressed Patel for additional British help, including officers and equipment, to root out smugglers "who profit from the human misery of the people who want to cross the Channel and who are not punished enough."

"It's very important that our British friends realize that if the migrants come here in Calais, it's not for the beauty of the city but it's to cross the Channel," he said. "The British government did a lot to protect the French coast, but we need more."

Overdrive

By MARK PHELAN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

DETROIT—The 2020 Hyundai Venue Denim provides a road map to how automakers will offer entry-level models despite their shift to more profitable SUV-style vehicles: in part by omitting one of the defining features of most SUVs, but nonetheless offering lots of other goodies and tons of room.

Objectively, the Venue is a compact station wagon or hatchback, but it delivers the design and packaging benefits buyers love about SUVs, successfully dodging the ‘cheap car’ stigma that dogged compact and subcompact hatchbacks for generations.

In many ways, the Venue is the automotive apotheosis of Stephen Colbert’s concept of ‘truthiness,’ which Merriam-Webster defines as “the quality of seeming to be true but not necessarily or actually true according to known facts.”

It doesn’t actually have the off-road capability widely expected from SUVs—not even the most rudimentary all-wheel-drive system is available—but The Venue sure seems like an SUV, thanks to a clever design that delivers a little more ground clearance, interior volume and better sight lines than people expect from small cars.

Forget what the Venue isn’t. It is an outstanding value and a strong competitor to be the best entry-level vehicle you can buy. It belongs on the

shopping list of parents looking for max quality and safety per dollar for young drivers.

The Venue competes with small vehicles—call them SUVs or cars, whatever you like; the distinction barely matters any more—like the Kia Soul, Nissan Kicks and Toyota C-HR. Like the Venue, they all offer only front-wheel drive. Because it has the look, room and ground clearance of a small SUV, and because it’s inexpensive, shoppers may also consider vehicles that offer AWD, including the Chevrolet Trax, Ford Ecosport, Honda H-RV and Mazda CX-3.

Venue prices run from \$17,350 to \$22,050. All prices exclude destination charges. Front-wheel drive, a 1.6L 122-hp four-cylinder engine and continuously variable

transmission are standard. The Venue is in dealerships now.

The Venue offers lots of safety, comfort and convenience for the money.

I tested a top of the line Denim model that came with dark blue paint, a white roof, denim-style upholstery with accent stitching and matching interior trim.

It stickered at \$22,185 and had a single option: \$135 carpeted floor mats.

Driving impressions

The Venue’s 1.6L normally aspirated four-cylinder engine produces 121 hp and 113 pound-feet of torque. Neither figure is impressive, but acceleration is adequate around town and on the highway. A six-speed manual transmission is standard on the base SE model, while the SEL and Denim come with a continu-

ally variable automatic transmission is standard.

The EPA rates Venues with the CVT automatic transmission at an impressive 30 mpg in city driving, 34 in the highway and 32 in combined driving. The combined rating is better than FWD versions of the CX-3, H-RV and Soul, 1 mpg less than the Kicks.

The steering is direct and has good on-center feel, while the suspension absorbs bumps well. The overall impression is of a chassis that could handle more power, opening the door for tuners to turn the Venue into a bargain sport compact. That formula helped Hyundai win a generation of buyers with the Tiburon, another inexpensive small car amenable to upgrades on a budget.

Roomy, practical interior

The four-door Venue hatch-

back is a tidy 159 inches long, riding on a 99.2-inch wheelbase. It’s 69.2 inches tall and 61.6 wide, with practical upright sides that maximize passenger and cargo space.

There’s good head and leg room. At 18.0 cubic feet behind the rear seat, cargo space trails the competition. The seats are comfortable, with nice denim-look fabric and faux leather trim. The interior. Controls include an 8.0-inch touch screen for phone and audio; CarPlay and Android auto compatibility for navigation and simple web searches, and buttons and dials for climate. Hyundai’s Blue Link system lets Alexa digital assistant control features like locking, remote start for cooling and heating and flash the headlights if you forget where you parked.

NUTS & BOLTS

2020 Hyundai Venue at a glance

- Base price: \$17,350
- As tested: \$22,185 (excluding destination charges)
- Front-wheel drive five passenger subcompact SUV.
- Engine: 1.6L four-cylinder
- Output: 121 hp @ 6,300 rpm; 113 lb-ft of torque @ 4,500
- Transmission: Continuously variable automatic
- EPA: 30 mpg city/34 highway/32 combined
- Wheelbase: 99.2 inches
- Length: 159.0
- Width: 69.7
- Height: 61.6 (without roof rails)
- Base curb weight: 2,557 lbs.
- Assembled in Ulsan, Korea

AUTOREVIEW: 2020 Hyundai Venue SUV

packs features and value into small package



(MARK PHELAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS/TNS)
The 2020 Hyundai Venue Denim.

Under the Hood: Picking the right pickup for trailer hauling

Q: I’m hoping that you can help me on researching a truck to tow a travel trailer. My wife and I are interested in at most a 24-foot trailer of no more than 4,000 lbs. We have checked Consumer Reports, Edmunds, KBB and a few others for truck recommendations and find it almost impossible to figure out what our best option is. We’re looking for a 1- to 5-year-old used extended or dual cab.

A: It’s probably best if I steer clear of recommending a truck brand, as any of the big three 1500 series (half-ton) trucks along with the Nissan Titan, will

have perhaps double the towing capacity you’ll need. How the truck is optioned makes a difference, of course. Engine torque is more useful to look at than horsepower for towing, and the smaller turbocharged gas engines such as Ford’s 3.5L deliver impressive torque.

Diesel engines have just recently been made available in 1500 series trucks, they’re perhaps half the specs of the ones found in traditional 2500 series (3/4-ton) trucks, still pretty good! These six-cylinder 3.0L engines develop respectable torque, somewhat above 400 pound-feet, more than plenty for a trailer that you’re

considering. The Nissan Titan employs a Cummins 5.0L V-8 with even more muscle. Diesel engines pack a large up-front cost but make up for it over time with better fuel economy, towing grunt and durability.

A lower axle ratio (higher number, such as 3.73) is helpful for towing as well. A 4.10 ratio would be overkill for a moderate size trailer and waste fuel during non-towing use.

If you’re new to trailering, you may be surprised at how much extra weight you’ll actually be dealing with beyond a typical 24-foot travel trailer’s advertised unladen weight (about 4,400 pounds).

With the water tank full, holding tanks perhaps half full, propane, groceries and recreational gear, you should figure on an extra 1,000 pounds, at least. Assuming a 15% tongue weight, two truck occupants, fuel, the dog and a few things in the bed, you may be nearing perhaps 1,500 pounds of payload. This could become a closer call to stay within a 1500 series truck’s rated load capacity. LT rated tires, properly inflated, are a must.

One possible consideration might be whether you may outgrow your intended trailer some day in the future and seek a larger one. This would

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
Tribune News Service

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possibly require a 2500 series truck or even a 3500 series for a full-size fifth wheel. The beefiness of a 2500 series truck is fairly significant (stronger frame, full floating rear axle, larger brakes) and available diesel engines ranging back many years, but you’d pay a fuel economy penalty due to added weight with a gasoline engine.

If it were me, I’d go for a 2- to 3-year-old 2500 series

diesel— more than enough muscle with good fuel economy (I average 19-21 mpg unloaded/60 mph with my Denali 3500 Dually; 11 mpg towing a 14,000 trailer). I’d avoid a 2011-2016 GM Duramax diesel, which can have costly issues with its Bosch CP4 injection pump. The CP4 is also used in 2011-present Ford Power Strokes and Ram Ecodiesels, with fewer issues.

Life & Style

World Council of Churches 'dismayed' at Hagia Sophia shift

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—The head of the World Council of Churches has written to Turkey's president expressing his "grief and dismay" over Turkey's decision to change the status of Istanbul's landmark Hagia Sophia from a museum to a mosque.

As a World Heritage museum, "Hagia Sophia has been a place of openness, encounter and inspiration for people from all nations," interim secretary general Ioan Sauca said in the letter released Saturday by the Geneva-based group.

The colossal Hagia Sophia was built 1,500 years ago as an Orthodox Christian cathe-

dral and was converted into a mosque after the Ottomans conquered Constantinople, now Istanbul, in 1453. The secular Turkish government decided in 1934 to make it a museum, and millions of tourists now visit the landmark annually.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan formally converted the building back into a mosque Friday and declared it open for Muslim worship hours after a high court annulled the 1934 government decision.

Sauca said the museum status had been "a powerful expression" of Turkey's commitment to inclusion and secularism. He urged Erdogan



to reconsider the decision "in the interests of promoting mutual understanding, respect, dialogue and cooperation, and avoiding cultivating old ani-

mosities and divisions."

The WCC says its membership comprises 350 Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican churches with some 500 mil-

^{AP}
The Byzantine-era Hagia Sophia, one of Istanbul's main tourist attractions in the historic Sultanahmet district of Istanbul, is seen, top center, Saturday, July 11, 2020.

lion believers.

Erdogan, a devout Muslim, has frequently used the debate over Hagia Sophia to drum up support for his Islamic-rooted party. The decision has provoked deep dismay among Orthodox Christians and strong criticism from neighbor and rival Greece.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian also said

France "deplores" Turkey's decision on Hagia Sophia.

"These decisions cast doubt on one of the most symbolic acts of modern and secular Turkey," the minister said in a statement.

"The integrity of this religious, architectural and historic jewel, a symbol of religious freedom, tolerance and diversity, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, must be preserved," he said. "Hagia Sophia must continue to represent the plurality and diversity of religious heritage, dialogue and tolerance."

Bollywood's Amitabh Bachchan, 3 family members test positive

NEW DELHI (AP)—Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan, his son and two other family members have tested positive for the coronavirus in Mumbai, India's financial and entertainment capital, a government minister said Sunday.

The Nanavati Super Speciality Hospital said that Amitabh Bachchan was in stable condition with mild symptoms in an isolation unit.

Bachchan, 77, said in a tweet Saturday that he had tested positive and appealed to those who were in close proximity to him in the past 10 days to get themselves tested.

His son, Abhishek Bachchan, 44, tweeted Saturday night that he also had tested positive and was in a hospital.

"Both of us having mild symptoms have been admitted to the hospital," he wrote. "I request all to stay calm and not panic."

Abhishek Bachchan tweeted Sunday that his wife, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, and their 8-year-old daughter had also tested positive. Aishwarya Rai Bachchan is a top Bollywood actress.

"They will be self quarantining at home," he said.

Maharashtra state Health Minister Rajesh Tope said Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and her daughter are asymptomatic.

The elder Bachchan has acted in more than 200 Indian films over the past five decades. He is also a former politician and a television host.

The Bachchans are often called Bollywood's first family. His wife, Jaya, is also an actress and a one-time member of Parliament.

The Press Trust of India news agency cited Tope as saying that Amitabh Bachchan and his son had a cough and fever. "They underwent rapid antigen test and (results) came

positive," he said.

In 2015, the actor revealed that he had been treated for Hepatitis B for more than two decades and lost more than 75% of his liver to the disease. Since he is comorbid, he got himself admitted to the hospital, Tope said.

The elder Bachchan's breakthrough performance came in the 1973 film "Zanjeer," or "The Chain," and he rose to superstardom playing bold characters, inspiring fans to copy his hairstyle, clothes and deep voice.

He briefly entered politics in 1985 but resigned his seat in Parliament midterm when former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's administration became ensnared in corruption.

Bachchan returned to film in the 1990s and made a rare Hollywood appearance in Baz Luhrmann's 2013 version of "The Great Gatsby."

Record label announces death of rap artist Lil Marlo

ATLANTA (AP)—The Atlanta-based rap artist known as Lil Marlo has died, his record label said Sunday.

Quality Control Music announced the death of Rudolph "Marlo" Johnson in a social media post, saying he will be remembered as "a man of great talent who feared nothing."

A statement from the Atlanta Police Department says a man named Rudolph Johnson was killed late Saturday in what investigators believe was a targeted shooting.

Officers responded to a single-car wreck on Interstate 285 in Atlanta at about 11:30 p.m. Saturday night and found the driver, later identified as Johnson, dead inside his vehicle, the statement said. Investigators believe Johnson was shot while driving and was the

intended target.

Police identified Johnson as 30 years old, while the social media post from Quality Control Music says he was born in 1993, which would make him around 27. Representatives for the record label did not immediately reply to a request for comment Sunday.

Johnson emerged in 2017 collaborating with rapper and friend Lil Baby on "2 The Hard Way." Earlier this year, the up-and-coming rapper released his project "1st & 3rd" featuring Future, Gucci Mane and Lil Baby.

"So Much Potential That The World Didn't Get A Chance To See. Love You Bro. It's Really Hard For Me To Say RIP," Quality Control Music CEO Pierre Thomas said on Instagram.

Search of California lake resumes for missing 'Glee' star

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The search to find "Glee" TV show star Naya Rivera in a Southern California lake resumed on Sunday, authorities said.

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office said last Thursday that they believe Rivera, 33, drowned in Lake Piru, northwest of Los Angeles. Her 4-year-old son was discovered alone in a rented boat.

The boy, who was found asleep and wearing a life vest late Wednesday afternoon, told investigators that he and his mother went swimming and he got back on the boat, but "his mom never made it out of the water," Sheriff's Sgt. Kevin Donoghue said.

Rivera began acting at a young age, but she rose to national attention playing a lesbian teen on "Glee," which aired from 2009 until 2015 on Fox.

Woman fumes when man won't take time to phone

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship with the same man for 15 years. For the last six, we have been living together. He's a machinist who owns his own business and works strict hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. Sometimes he locks his doors at 5 and works an hour or two later, but he doesn't call to let me know he is working late. I have told him calling is common courtesy. Sometimes he does it, but more often he does not. He thinks it's "ridiculous" that I would wonder where he is, and if I want to know, I can call his shop.

Last Saturday morning he was up at 6 a.m. and told me he needed to drive 100 miles north of here to look at a "project" for a customer to see if he can fix it. When I asked what the project was, he said he didn't know. This guy is someone he has recently started a friendship with. It seemed odd that he wouldn't let me go along for the ride. He said he'd have his phone on him, and I could call anytime to see where he was.

When I didn't hear from him all day, I started calling around 7 p.m. and three times after that, but he didn't pick up. He pulled back into our driveway around 10 p.m. and told me he was helping the guy move cows, and he would have called me on the way home but his phone died.

I'm upset. He had dinner with them, and they have a landline he could have used. I told him how hurt I was and that I feel disrespected. He says he deserved a day to himself. He thinks

I'm being ridiculous. Am I? Do I not deserve a phone call?

WAITING AND WAITING IN MONTANA

DEAR WAITING: You are not ridiculous. It was thoughtless of him not to call, but you said it doesn't happen all the time. You are his lady friend, not his keeper. If he needs a day to himself, it might benefit your relationship to cut him some slack. And when it happens again, schedule something fun for yourself so you aren't sitting by the phone.

DEAR ABBY: Our family and extended family are all highly educated individuals with advanced degrees. My son's wife didn't go to college, and while she is genuinely nice, she butchers the English language.

My granddaughter will be learning to talk soon, and I wonder what's the best way to approach the situation. I don't want to offend my daughter-in-law, but I also don't want my granddaughter learning improper grammar. What are your suggestions on how to handle this problem?

UNSURE ON THE WEST COAST

DEAR UNSURE: Because your family and extended family are well-educated and hold advanced degrees, the more time your grandchild spends with all of you, the better her chances of learning proper grammar. Do not talk

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

"baby talk" with her. Read to her and give her books as gifts. If her mother reads them to her daughter, they both may have a better chance of learning good grammar. Being around her well-educated father will also help, and once she's in school, it will be reinforced.

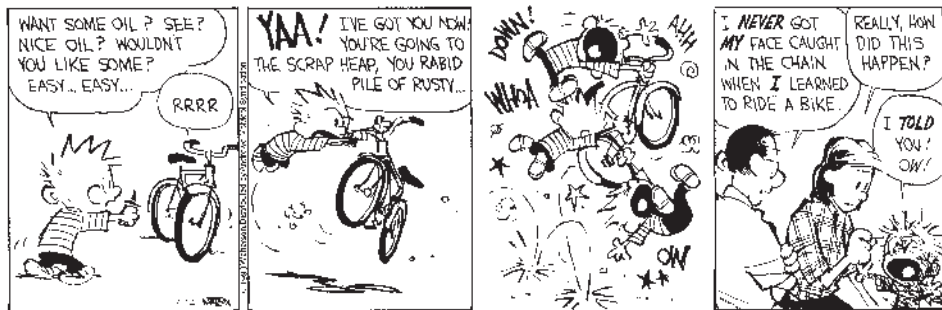
The only thing you should NOT do is say anything that will make your son's wife self-conscious about her upbringing because if you do, you may be seeing a lot less of that little family.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



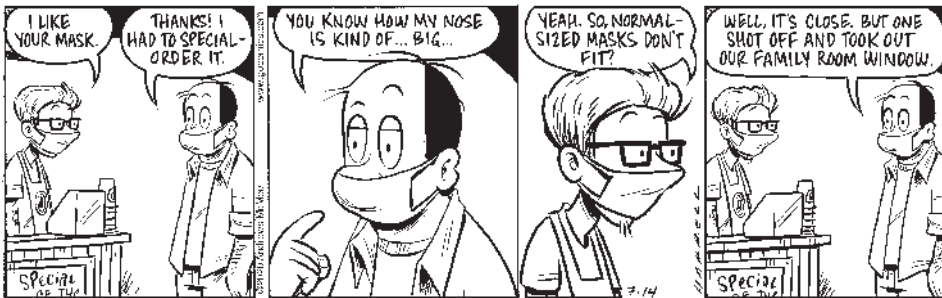
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Lucky Jim" author

5 Browns, on scoreboards

8 Fine spray

12 Campus mil. group

13 Melody

14 On the briny

15 Sax range

16 President after Hayes

18 Reformer Amelia

20 Concepts

21 — de deux

22 Away from NNW

23 Top invitees

26 President after Kennedy

30 Meadow

31 "You've got mail" co.

32 Half of CXII

33 President after Buchanan

DOWN

1 Basra resident

2 Gangster's honey

3 "Suffice — say ..."

4 Ice cream servings

5 Batting practice areas

6 Tale teller

7 Goof up

8 Lass

9 "Got it"

10 Actress Ward

11 Tiny amounts

17 Go angling

19 Wrestling surface

22 Fa follower

23 The whole enchilada

24 Luau souvenir

25 Actor McKellen

26 Voight of "Coming Home"

27 Devious

28 Eggs

29 Diarist Anais

31 H.S. math

34 Wound, as a spring

35 High-end hotel chain

36 Scary cry

37 Wi-Fi supplier

39 Like Gatsby

40 Nobel Prize subj.

41 Theater box

42 Golfer's warning

43 End-of-wk. cry

44 Naked

45 Sugar unit

46 Greek vowels

48 "CSI" find

Solution time: 22 mins.

B	R	I	T	V	I	M	S	C	A	B
R	I	E	A	V	A	A	H	M	E	
E	T	C	H	N	E	W	B	L	O	O
R	A	H	R	A	H	R	E	V	O	K
N	E	O	N	B	U	E	S	H	A	H
U	N	P	S	F	N	N	A	C	W	F
N	C	E	L	N	U	T	B	R	O	W
G	R	A	Z	E	D	R	E	D	E	E
N	C	A	B	E	N	E	L	E	V	
A	N	O	R	M	E	T	E	L	L	E
W	A	R	D	S	T	V	M	A	P	S

Yesterday's answer 7-14

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Scott Porter, 41; Matthew Fox, 54; Jackie Earle Haley, 59; Jane Lynch, 60.

Happy Birthday: Live in the moment, experience life and embrace changes that can make your environment better. Be part of the solution, and offer innovative ideas. Step up, be a leader and create what makes you happy. Push anger aside in order to do what's necessary, and you'll discover the joy of giving back and making new friends. Your numbers are 7, 11, 16, 25, 31, 36, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll become out of sorts if you don't like what you see. Before you say something you may regret, consider how best to handle a situation that can affect a meaningful relationship. You'll achieve more if you act with mindfulness. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Follow through with your plan. Educate yourself regarding rules and regulations to avoid setbacks. If something goes wrong, speak up, share thoughts and find out what the experts think. Patience and intelligence will outmaneuver anger and upset. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take action before someone takes over. How you handle others will determine how much you accomplish. Have a plan ready to initiate, and delegate work according to people's skills. Play fair, and others will treat you fairly. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Reach out through social media, and you'll get a response. How you market what you have to offer will make a difference in the outcome. A

partnership opportunity looks promising as long as your contributions are equal. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep an open mind, but don't give in to someone who is pestering you to do something you don't want to do. Honesty is the best policy; tell it like it is without getting upset or angry. Do your own thing. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Stop dreaming about change, and start implementing what you want to achieve. An intellectual approach to the way you live your life and who you associate with will help you build a stable future. Learn all you can in order to eliminate the error. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Spend more time taking care of your needs. Appreciate your skills and attributes, and look for new ways to market what you have to offer. It's a changing world, and keeping up with the trends can help you avoid setbacks. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make the changes you've been contemplating. It's time -- put your plans in motion and make your dreams come true. Speak out on your behalf as well as for those who can't. You will make a difference and discover personal enlightenment. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take time out to rejuvenate. Do something physical that will help you build strength and improve your body, mind and soul. Making a positive change at home and surrounding yourself with people who bring out the best in you are encouraged. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stop worrying about things or people you can't change. Look inward. Value what and who you have in your life, and it will help you make positive adjustments at home. A personal partnership nourished adequately will result in greater security. *****



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Ignore what's happening outside your immediate home and family. Put the initiative on living safely, smartly and within the rules and regulations that are applicable. Make physical fitness, health, love and happiness your goal. **



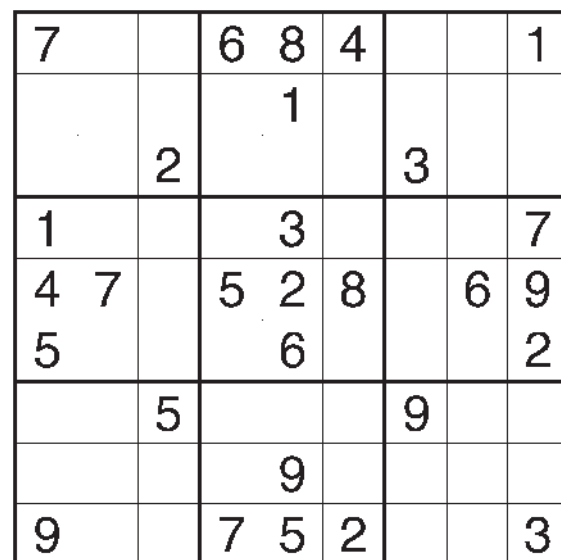
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Common sense, planning and avoiding arguments will pay off. Don't let temptation drag you into situations that are risky financially, physically or emotionally. It's up to you to put your time and effort where it will bring the highest return. *****

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, sensitive and opportunistic. You are inventive and possessive. Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

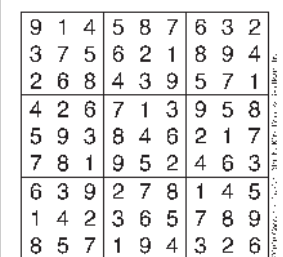


Difficulty Level ★★

7/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★

7/14

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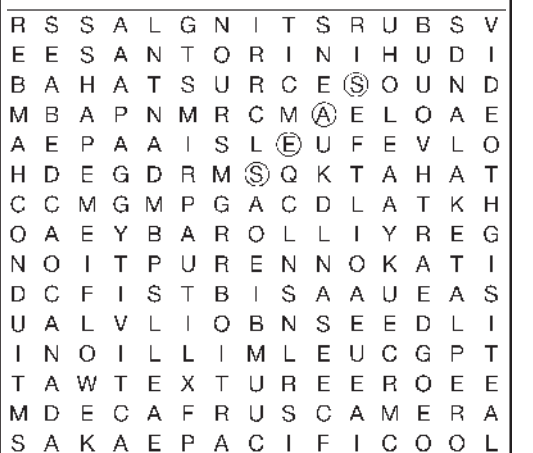
WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

UNDERWATER VOLCANOES

Solution: 10 letters



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Activity, Aegean, Animal, Aqueous, Boil, Bubble, Bursting, Camera, Canada, Chamber, Cloud, Conduit, Cool, Crust, Dike, Earth, Eruption, Flow, Fuel, Glass, Hole, Lake, Land, Lava, Magma, Marine, Million, Oceanographer, Oceans, Pacific, Peak, Plate, Pressure, Ridge, Rock, Santorini, Seabed, Seas, Shape, Sight, Site, Sound, Stratium, Surface, Texture, Video

Yesterday's Answer: Cycling

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Long break could work wonders for Sixers



FLORIDA—No team has benefited from the NBA's break in action more than the Philadelphia 76ers.

On the same day in March that Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert tested positive for COVID-19, effectively shutting down the league during the stretch run of the regular season, the Sixers announced All-Star point guard Ben Simmons would miss at least another three weeks with the lower back injury that had already sidelined him since Feb. 22. At that point, there was a real chance Simmons would either miss the remainder of the season or be severely diminished in the playoffs. He is now presumed healthy.

Likewise, All-Star center Joel Embiid had just returned from a shoulder injury to play limited minutes in Philadelphia's final game before the hiatus. His season had already been interrupted by ankle, hip, knee and hand injuries, and he has long struggled to maintain his fitness through a full play-off run. While he conceded recently, "I don't know how I'm going to look basketball-wise," he is at least well rested.

Al Horford has been battling balky knees over the last two seasons, and the 34-year-old said last week that the "the time off for me was beneficial" for the physical ailments that had hindered him this season.

At the very least, the 76ers are now on pace to start the playoffs with a fully healthy rotation. The only question now is whether the break did anything to help solve the on- and off-court issues that have left a title contender in sixth place in the Eastern Conference entering the final eight regular-season games.

Many teams are treating

the restart in Orlando as an entirely new season, and that would be a wise approach for the Sixers, whose locker-room dynamics were tested with each loss. Simmons questioned the team's effort. Horford questioned his role. Josh Richardson questioned the team's accountability. Embiid questioned Simmons' willingness to serve the greater good of the team by attempting outside shots. And coach Brett Brown seemed resigned to all of it adding up to "a bit of pre-mortem stuff."

Sometimes, stepping away from it all can give a team the proper perspective it needs to avoid such sniping the next time around. Early indications suggest the absence has not made all hearts grow fonder.

"It's just a matter of everybody buying in and being able to do their role," Embiid said on a conference call on Tuesday. "The pairing with Al, I feel like, has been fine. At times, it could be better. But then again, everybody on the court has a job, and with that type of pairing, you need to have shooters around or you need to have guys who want to take that shot, especially when you have two inside presences. You've got to have guys who are willing to shoot and are going to shoot the ball. That's what needs to happen."

This is another not-so-veiled shot at Simmons, no question about it. And Embiid is not wrong. Many of Philadelphia's issues can be traced to the primary playmaker's inability and unwillingness to shoot. His defender sags, crowding the space Embiid and/or Horford have to operate in the post. Both bigs are often pushed to the perimeter, where they are each shooting below league-average, in order to create driving lanes and



AP
In this Jan. 20, 2020 file photo, Philadelphia 76ers guard Ben Simmons dunks during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Brooklyn Nets in New York.

post-up opportunities for Simmons. All they ask is for him to do the same for them.

Except, Simmons has not answered the many calls for him to shoot, mostly out of a self-admitted lack of confidence, the root of his stated goal of not attempting 3-pointers until he can make them at an expert-level clip. As he told ESPN's Jackie MacMullan for an April feature on this subject, "I could be one of those guys shooting 30 percent right now. But I'd rather be one of those guys shooting 40 percent."

Don't we all! But the Sixers do not just want him to be one of those guys shooting 30 percent right now, they need him to be, if only because the threat of a three is better than no threat at all. Simmons has attempted 23 triples in his three-year career, many of them end-of-quarter heaves, and he made his first two this season. He has suggested the work he put into his jump shot could be revealed in the playoffs, but we have heard that before. Simmons also said his primary focus over the past few months has been adding muscle, which Sixers personnel and fans should hope is a smokescreen for an improved jumper.

Philadelphia general manager Elton Brand did attempt to address the shooting woes in the rest of the rotation, making a deadline-day trade for Alec Burks and Glenn Robinson III, both of whom were hitting at high marks with the Golden State Warriors, and adding Ryan Broekhoff off the waiver wire last month. (NBC)

WEST VIRGINIA (AP)—Tennys Sandgren celebrated a game-clinching point in pandemic-appropriate fashion, retrieving the ball himself in the absence of ball kids, and exchanging an awkward fist-to-elbow bump with a teammate as the World TeamTennis season started before mask-wearing fans on Sunday.

WTT's nine teams have come together The Greenbrier resort for their three-week season. Matches normally are played at various sites around the country but everyone was brought to one location because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Sandgren, for one, was happy to be at The Greenbrier, and not just for the tennis.

"You know what it's been like the last four months," he said. "You've been sitting in your house the whole damn

Fans welcomed to World TeamTennis matches

time. I get to do it in a beautiful setting now. It's fantastic. There's lots of stuff to do."

For Sandgren, that includes playing golf and hanging out at the pool.

"It's been pretty chill," he said.

Tennis became one of the few professional sports to welcome fans back so far during the pandemic. An indoor bull riding event was held Friday in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, as well as a weekend IndyCar doubleheader with limited spectators at Road America in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin.

"It was awesome to have some people out there to get behind the tennis," Sandgren said. "It made hitting good shots a little more fun."

Last month, top-ranked Novak Djokovic played in a se-

ries of exhibition matches he organized in Serbia and Croatia with fans in the stands and zero social distancing amid the pandemic. He later announced that both he and his wife had tested positive for the virus and apologized for contributing to its spread.

The WTT season started just as confirmed coronavirus cases were soaring nationally. In West Virginia alone, positive cases have doubled in the past month, including dozens of cases and three deaths linked to a church not far from the resort.

There were strict measures in place at the matches to ensure health and safety. Anyone who wasn't a competing ath-

lete wore a mask inside the tennis stadium and fans had their temperatures checked prior to entering. Staggered rows of seats were covered to allow for social distancing.

Up to 500 spectators are being allowed at each of the outdoor matches at the 2,500-seat court, although there were far fewer than 500 in attendance at the opening match. If rain forces play indoors, the maximum capacity will be reduced to 100 fans and 50 staffers.

On the court, the chair umpire was helped by electronic line calling instead of line judges. There were no ball kids. The athletes chased down loose balls and tossed

them to the serving player. When matches ended, opponents touched tennis rackets—no high-fives or handshakes.

"If it's safe for the people to get out and experience the tennis live, I'm all for it," Orlando Storm coach Jay Gooding said. "It's exciting for us. I think the tennis public in general has something to look forward to."

Lisa Pace of Raleigh, North Carolina, and her 18-year-old son, Jackson, already were on a repeat vacation to the resort and decided to stay an extra day to take in the WTT's opening matches. Jackson Pace played on his high school tennis team, and they weren't apprehensive about being among dozens of people at a public event, albeit outdoors.

"We both play tennis and we love watching it on TV," Lisa Pace said. "We just wanted to take advantage."

She was especially eager to see 2017 U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens and Sandgren, who reached the quarterfinals of this year's Australian Open.

Sandgren, who plays for the Storm, won Sunday's opening match in men's singles against Mitchell Krueger of the two-time defending champion Springfield Lasers. Sandgren later won matches in men's doubles with James Ward and mixed doubles with Jessica Pegula.

Besides Stephens, other Grand Slam champions playing at the Greenbrier are Venus Williams, Kim Clijsters, Sofia Kenin and twins Bob and Mike Bryan, who have won 16 Grand Slam doubles titles together.



Newton-Belichick partnership 'terrifying' for rivals



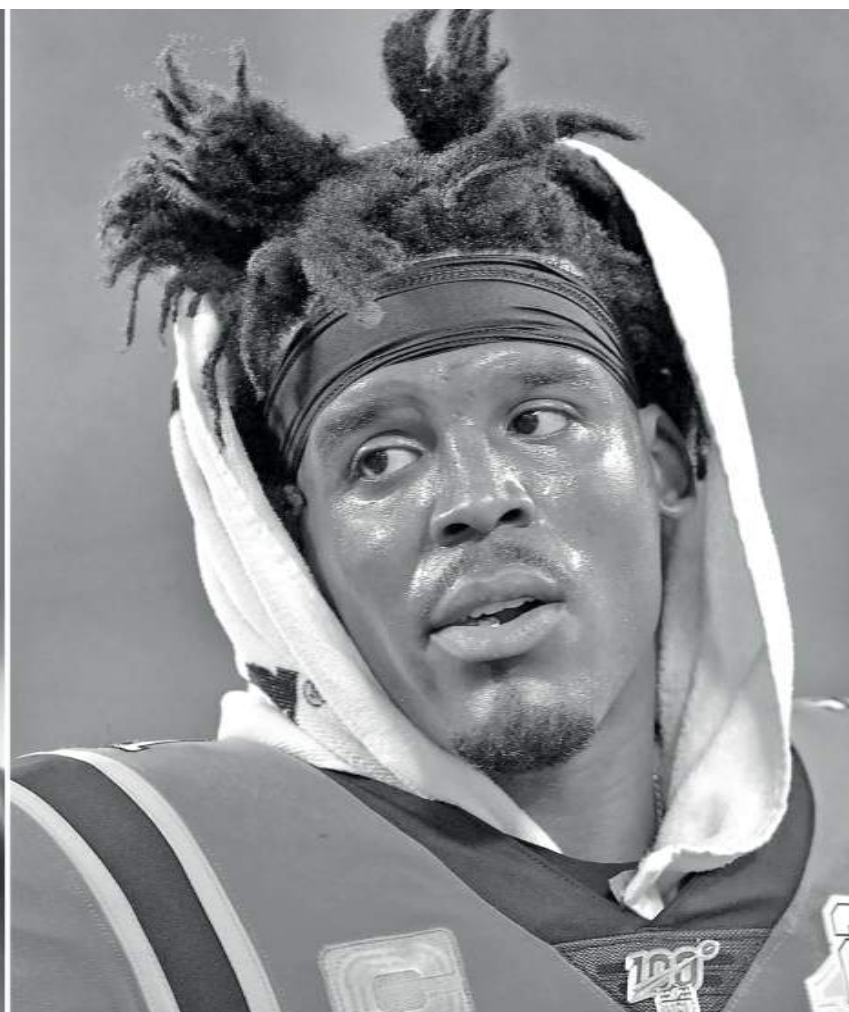
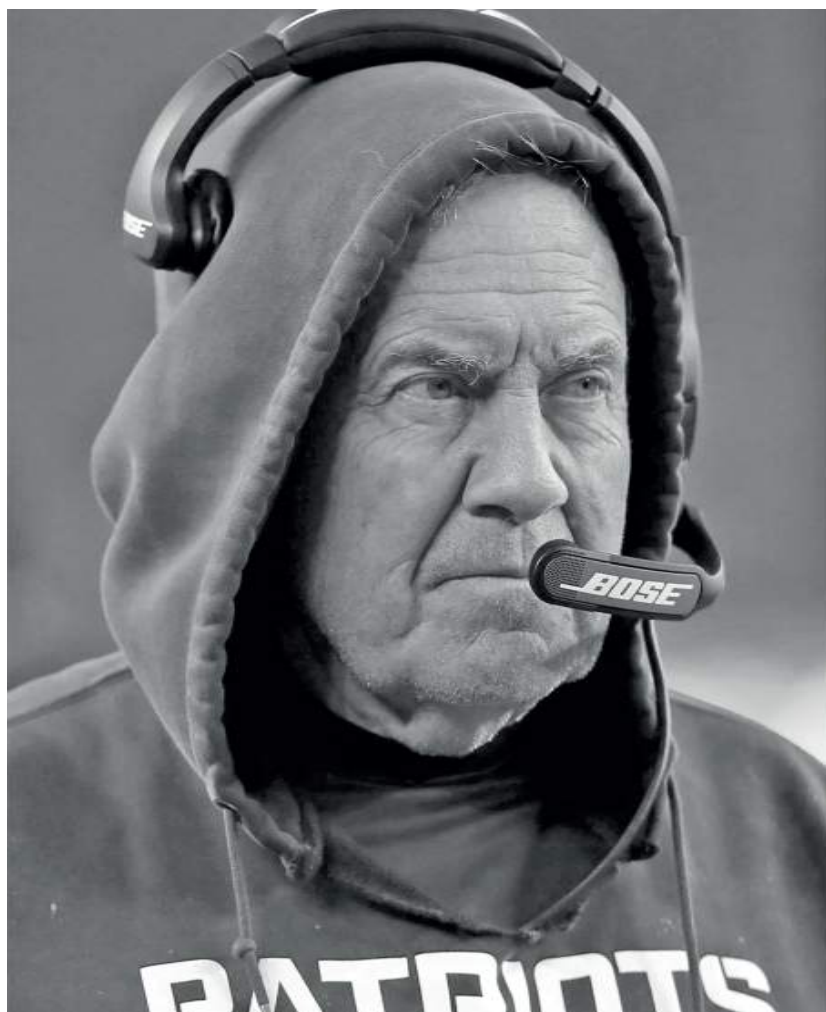
BOSTON—A healthy Cam Newton at quarterback is an exciting thought for New England Patriots fans, but a “terrifying” one for players across the league.

Newton clearly has a chip on his shoulder as he returns from an injury-plagued 2019 to compete for the Patriots’ starting job. The 2015 NFL MVP already has posted multiple hype videos and social media posts emphasizing his motivation as he begins his new chapter.

If Newton indeed is at full strength in 2020, that could spell trouble for the rest of the league. New York Jets guard Greg Van Roten, who spent five years with Newton on the Carolina Panthers, explained on SiriusXM NFL Radio why Newton joining forces with head coach Bill Belichick could be a serious problem for opponents.

“It’s definitely terrifying to think if Cam Newton’s healthy and he’s in Belichick’s offense, you know, in my division, it could be a long year for the other teams, because he’s a game-changer,” Van Roten said. “He came into the league, you know, he’s a league MVP, brought a team to the Super Bowl—he’s just built differently than a lot of quarterbacks. And he’s a headache to game plan for.”

“So when he’s healthy, you can stop the run from him, but then you gotta defend the pass. If you can stop the pass, well then you’ve got to account for the run. So, it’s basically, pick one thing and he’ll do the other. And then you couple



Cam Newton, left, at quarterback is an exciting thought for New England Patriots fans, while him joining forces with head coach Bill Belichick could be a serious problem for opponents.

him with Belichick, who only cares about winning and Cam really wants to prove himself, so it’s definitely a recipe for disaster for the rest of the league if they can figure it out.

Newton still will have plenty to prove once training camp comes around, but the three-time Pro Bowler has wasted no time getting up to speed with the Patriots offense. Last week, Newton posted a photo of himself studying the Pats’ play-

book and also spent some time working out with second-year wide receiver N’Keal Harry.

With a motivated Newton ready to learn under arguably the greatest head coach of all time, it’s easy to see why opposing teams are petrified of what the duo can accomplish together.

Washington to shed ‘Redskins’ name

Meanwhile, Washington’s

NFL team will get rid of the name ‘Redskins’ on Monday, according to multiple reports.

It’s unclear when a new name will be revealed for one of the league’s oldest franchises.

USA Today, ESPN, The Washington Post, Washington Times and Sports Business Journal reported Sunday night that owner Dan Snyder is set to “retire” the name. Yahoo, on Saturday, reported a name change was imminent.

The team launched a ‘thorough review’ of the name July 3 that the NFL supported. That came in the aftermath of prominent sponsors FedEx, Nike, PepsiCo and Bank of America asking the team to change the name.

FedEx is the title sponsor of the team’s stadium in Landover, Maryland, and CEO Frederick Smith is a minority owner. Nike and other companies pulled team gear from their online stores.

Over a dozen Native American leaders and organizations wrote to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell last week demanding an immediate end to Washington’s use of the name. In the letter that was obtained by The Associated Press, they said they “expect the NFL to engage in a robust, meaningful reconciliation process with Native American movement leaders, tribes, and organizations to repair the decades of emotional violence and other serious harms this racist team name has caused to Native Peoples.”

Rash of COVID-19 positive tests

When players report for training camp, they’ll initially receive a COVID-19 test. The NFL is expecting a rash of positive results.

“We absolutely expect that, and I think that’s just reflective of the fact that this disease remains endemic in our society,” NFL chief medical officer Allen Sills said.

The goal will be catching those who test positive before

they can enter the team facility, the locker room, the practice field, or a game.

“You don’t want anyone who is infected to come into that team environment,” Sills added. “That is an absolutely crucial screening for us to try to start off with a very healthy environment, and also make sure we can give the appropriate treatment and care for those individuals who may be affected and not be aware. But I think we all anticipate that there will be those cases, and we’ve been very clear of that throughout.”

The NFL and NFL Players Association have agreed that players who test positive but who are asymptomatic will be quarantined for at least five days and must generate two negative tests before returning. Symptomatic players must be quarantined for 10 days with two negative tests. For players who actually become ill, they may be off the field even longer than that after being cleared, given the potential impact of exercise on their recovery.

So how many will be positive from the get go? With other sports generating a positive test rate in the range of 2-5 percent as players report for duty, and with roughly 4,500 NFL players, coaches, and staff, that’s a range of 90 to 225 positives. The challenge will be to identify all of them and to keep them away from others, to prevent the kind of outbreak that would cause the Jenga tower to collapse upon removal of its first brick. (AP/NBC)

Woods commits to playing in Memorial Tournament



OHIO—Tiger Woods is back.

The legendary golfer tweeted on Thursday that he’s going to play in next week’s Memorial Tournament in Dublin.

Woods, 44, hasn’t played a competitive round in the PGA since the Genesis Invitational on Feb. 16. Shortly after that, the COVID-19 pandemic shut down all sports, including golf, nearly worldwide. Numerous PGA tournaments have been canceled or rescheduled, including the U.S. Open, the Masters and the Ryder Cup.

Back problems would have kept Woods from competing in the Players Championship in early March had it not been canceled. He also declined to play in several recent tournaments, including the Charles Schwab Challenge and the RBC Heritage. When the Memorial Tournament kicks off on July 16, it will have been five full months since Woods

has made a shot in an official competition.

Tiger has been competing, though. In May he played in The Match: Champions for Charity, pairing up with Peyton Manning to beat the team of Phil Mickelson and Tom Brady. The Match raised \$20 million for COVID-19 relief.

The Memorial Tournament, which is hosted by founder and golf legend Jack Nicklaus, was originally slated to take place with up to 8,000 socially distanced fans per day. Organizers announced that the tournament would go forward without fans.

Meanwhile, Collin Morikawa figured his tournament was over if he didn’t make a 5-foot par putt on the 15th hole at Muirfield Village.

He couldn’t have imagined all the fun was just starting.

Still three shots behind Justin Thomas with three holes to play, Morikawa made only one birdie and it was enough for a

6-under 66 to force a playoff.

The three times he played the 18th hole, he twice could only watch as Thomas had 10-foot putts for the win.

The other time, Morikawa had to make a 25-foot putt to keep playing.

The only dull moment Sunday at the Workday Charity Open was the end, when Morikawa took two putts for par from just inside 10 feet to beat Thomas on the third playoff hole and win for the second time in his career.

“Amazing,” Morikawa said when asked how he would sum up the day to someone who only saw the result.

That covered a lot of territory. Morikawa never looked like the winner until it was over.

Thomas had 10 straight one-putt greens, the last one a 25-foot eagle putt on the par-5 15th for the three-shot lead with three holes to play. And while he made two bogeys for a 69 that allowed for a playoff, he had reason to think it

was over when he made a 50-foot birdie putt from the back of the 18th green.

“I never assumed it was over,” Thomas said. “Percentages would say that it heavily is close to being that way. ... I just tried to keep my head down and think he’s going to make it, but hoping he’s not, selfishly, but he did.”

Thomas missed a 10-footer for par in regulation, and a putt close to that same line for birdie on the second extra hole. He was done in by a tee shot on No. 10 that wound up in the rough behind a tree, forcing him to pitch out 102 yards short of the green. He missed his 15-foot par putt, leading to Morikawa’s two-putt par and the win.

It was a wild ride for Thomas, too. He started with a two-shot lead, trailed by three after just five holes, made four straight birdies and was ahead by three shots 10 holes later, and ultimately lost in a playoff. (AP/NBC)

Free agent Puig receives offer from Orioles

MARYLAND—The Baltimore Orioles have shown interest in free agent outfielder Yasiel Puig and have even made at least one contract offer, MLB.com's Mark Feinsand reported.

Puig remains on the market after no team made a deal with the veteran during the off-season. The seven-year pro most recently played for the Cleveland Indians during the second half of the 2019 season after

being traded by the Cincinnati Reds. In total, Puig hit .267 with 24 home runs and 84 RBI during the 2019 campaign.

The outfielder burst onto the scene during his rookie season in 2013. Hitting .319 in 104 games with the Dodgers, he finished second in NL Rookie of the Year voting. Besides his skill at the plate, Puig made waves for his big arm and an even bigger personality. The energy has remained season to season, but Puig has been unable to capture great statistical success since his 2014 All-Star season.

Still, Puig can provide any team with a consistent bat and serviceable defense. However, the Orioles are an interesting match considering their current rebuild status. With only 60 games to play in 2020, Baltimore may be better off letting young players get as many reps as possible.

But, if Puig can be brought in on a team-friendly deal, there isn't much harm in taking a chance on the 29-year-old. Maybe for Baltimore, Puig will be their friend.

Meanwhile, Los Angeles Dodgers closer Kenley Jansen was late arriving to summer camp after he tested positive for COVID-19.

The three-time All-Star closer said Sunday on a video conference call that he believes he contracted the virus from his 4-year-old son Kaden. He said



AP
Former Cleveland Indians slugger Yasiel Puig has received an offer from the Baltimore Orioles.

In other news, The Athletic's Ken Rosenthal and Zach Buchanan report that the Diamondbacks are one of several teams that have used labs other than the Sports Medicine Research and Testing Laboratory in Utah to process COVID-19 testing. MLB has encountered delays with its testing, despite promising 24-hour turnaround time, so teams have tried other avenues—with the league's endorsement—in order to get faster results.

The SMRTL had processed performance-enhancing drug screenings for MLB. The league converted it to process COVID-19 tests amid concerns that having a season and all of the testing that would be required throughout would take away testing resources from the general public. That some teams are utilizing labs other than the SMRTL suggests the league, indeed, is usurping those resources.

In prospect Seth Beer's case, he tested positive for COVID-19. He needed to test negative twice consecutively to be cleared to return to play. Beer went to a third-party site in the Phoenix area. He received his second negative test and was cleared to return on July 9. *(AP/NBC)*

the child had a fever, among other symptoms, which led his wife to suggest everyone in the family get tested.

Jansen said his first test was negative, but a day later he tested positive. The couple has another son, Kyrian, who turns 2 in August. The family has been quarantining at their home in Los Angeles. Jansen's 7-year-old daughter, Natalia, lives with her mother and was not affected.

Jansen said he's "doing great and better now."

"It is real," he said of the pandemic. "Everyone in the world, take it serious. Wear your mask at all times, if you can. Because, trust me, it happens

so fast. Once my son got it, I've seen how fast it can spread. We tried to do everything, but we all got it in the house."

Jansen said he did not consider opting out of the 60-game season even though he has had heart issues in the past. In November 2018, Jansen underwent a heart ablation procedure after he was first diagnosed with irregular heartbeat issues seven years earlier.

"I always wanted to play, I love this game. I want to do it for the fans," the 32-year-old reliever said.

Jansen did not report for the team's first official workout

on July 3. At the time, manager Dave Roberts said he couldn't say why.

"He looks like he's in good shape. I know he's thrilled to death to be back with his teammates," Roberts said Sunday. "When one of your own is affected by something then certainly it hits home more. It makes us even more conscious."

However, Roberts said, Jansen would not be treated any differently because he had the virus.

Jansen said he expects to be ready for the season opener July 23 at home against the San Francisco Giants.



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cancelled this year due to the pandemic. Georgia Tech had an overall record of 15-6 to place behind No. 1 North Carolina and NC State (17-3) and won its last game of the cancelled season against Virginia Tech, 6-1. Duke (9-2), Florida State (14-3), Syracuse (8-3), Notre Dame (11-5), Miami (6-4), Virginia (10-5), Wake Forest (8-4), Clemson (11-6), Boston College (9-4), and Louisville (8-6) are the other teams playing in the tough ACC.

The CNMI player is one of the four rookies of Georgia Tech. Lee's recruiting class, which also includes India's Mahak Jain and two Georgia natives Ana Hrstar and Ruth Marsh, is ranked No. 2 (Top 25) in the Tennis Recruiting Network and Mizuno's poll released last month.

HISTORIC

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the former Portuguese colony in 2006, 0-5; 0-2 and 0-3 in 2008, and, 0-7, in 2010, so you see, the odds were not on the Kiyoshi Sekiguchi-coached team's side.

"Macau was definitely the better team. But that day, after seeing coach Seki so emotional, saying this is our chance, the better team became irrelevant, it's who wanted the win more," Jewell said.

Macau scored the first goal and kept the upper hand for a while before Joyner hit the equalizer late in the first half where the CNMI players saw frustrations and at the same time passion from Kiyoshi's eyes. Yobech recalled their coach slapped the board—a rare occasion—at the dug-out after conceding a goal to their opponents.

"He was so livid with us and at first I felt deflated and told myself we're going down, again. But after seeing coach's face as he spoke to us, I knew, we can do better and rise up to the challenge. He inspired us," Yobech said.

Joyner led the uprising in the second half. After having his first goal off a cross pass



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this file photo, the CNMI's Jehn Joyner, right, chases the ball during their game against host Chinese-Taipei the 2011 East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI team official Carrie Schuler helps Andrew Johnson perform stretching drills.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the CNMI Boys U15 National Team celebrate after beating Macau, 2-1.

from Yobech, Joyner hit the dagger came from Dakota Hall's corner kick early in the second. After stealing the upper hand, the U15 players hung tight in the remaining minutes of the game and went on to heal their wounded pride and make history for CNMI soccer.

"After the game, I kept looking at the scoreboard, 2-1. This is real. I felt so proud to be there and looking at what we just accomplished," Izuka said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI anthem is played before the game in the 2011 East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament in Chinese-Taipei.



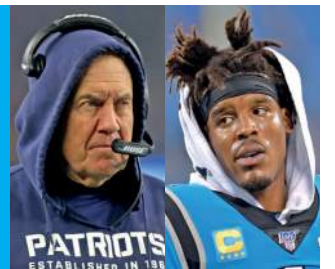
Long break
could work
wonders for
Sixers

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Newton-Belichick
partnership
'terrifying'
for rivals

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Historic win gives players sense of pride

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



After being hammered in its previous games, the CNMI Boys U15 National Team's 2-1 victory against Macau in the 2011 East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament did not only make history for the Commonwealth, but also gave its players a sense of pride.

"After all the celebrations and the hugging, what's left is that sense of pride because we got the win and represented the islands well," said Andrew Johnson, who joined teammates Jehn Joyner, Kennedy Izuka, Kenneth Domingo, Billy Hinson, Hunter Jewell, Enrico Del



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The scoreboard shows the CNMI edged Macau, 2-1.

Rosario, and Jireh Yobech and coach Jerish Angeles in *Footcast with Norman* last Saturday to look back at what host Norman Del Rosario called "mother of all firsts" as the CNMI recorded its first international win.

Domingo, who played as defender on the team, recalled how the opposing squads blew them out in their four games and telling himself "here we go again," while Yobech felt disappointed and defeated even



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this 2011 file photo, players and officials of the CNMI Boys U15 National Team gather together after competing in the 2011 East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament in Chinese-Taipei.

before the match against Macau, and Enrico Del Rosario, battling sickness, was already resigned that they could not make it.

The CNMI bets fell to Chinese-Taipei, 0-18, in the first game in the tournament and then bowed to Hong Kong, 0-15; Korea, 0-22;

and Guam, 0-3. Against Macau, the Commonwealth players were 0-4, losing to

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Carol preps for college tennis



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this file photo, NCAA-bound Carol Lee goes for a baseline return in one of her ITF Juniors tournaments in South Korea.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the CNMI's Carol Lee remains on track with her preparations for her next journey—college tennis.

Lee has been training six times a week, spending two hours every day (afternoon) hitting balls and allotting an average of one hour (morning) doing fitness drills to get ready for her jump to the National Collegiate Athletic Association with Division I school Georgia Tech.

"I am working on developing my game style, staying consistent, and improving my movements," said Lee, who earlier resorted to working out at home when sports activities were barred as safety precautions against the pandemic.

"I will continue my training here until I leave for Atlanta," the Pacific Games silver medalist said.

Lee will fly to Atlanta on Aug. 8 to meet her teammates and coaches with the Yellow Jackets. She has no idea yet on how sports will be handled in Georgia Tech at this time of the pandemic so she will use some of her time getting

herself familiar with her new school and residence.

"I want to get used to the environment around me, the community, and the new schedule I will have—if there is a tennis season coming up," the former No. 1 junior player in Pacific Oceania said.

Lee, the first CNMI player to have competed in the junior event of the Australian Open and US Open, will also meet with the academic advisor of Georgia Tech to discuss her course options.

"My first few weeks there will be more about school work," the four-time Northern Marianas Sports Association/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Female Student Athlete of the Year awardee said.

Lee will be joining the Yellow Jackets, who had the third best record in the very competitive Atlantic Coast Conference before the season was

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